



PUPILS ARE SENT OUT OF BOROUGH

Report by Richard Guttridge

MORE than £1 million is being spent on sending pupils from Dudley to independent special schools – with most of them being sent outside the borough.

There were 52 pupils sent to the independent schools during 2014/15 with the places funded by Dudley Council. Almost three quarters of those pupils – 36 – are sent to schools outside of the borough.

Now Dudley Council has been criticised over a 'lack of planning' to ensure that there are an adequate number of places within the borough.

The total cost, from the education budget, is £1,008,010. In addition, £81,747 was spent on transport to get the children to the schools.



Paul Brothwood

Education bosses at the council say that the needs of the children come first and that youngsters were only sent outside the borough when necessary.

But UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood said it was up to the council to be able to cater for special school pupils.

Councillor Brothwood said: "We have lost a number of special schools in Dudley and it is now costing even more to send children outside of the borough, which is costly for the taxpayer. There has to be long-term planning."

"It's difficult for parents with one child that needs to go to a special school and one that needs to go to a typical primary school, it means they have to make two journeys, and one outside of the borough."

Tony Oakman, strategic director for the people directorate at Dudley Council, said: "Out of borough placements provide highly specialist education for children who often have very complex needs."

"The placements are only agreed where absolutely necessary, to meet very challenging needs, and after every other option in borough has been exhausted."

"We monitor and review placements very closely and bring pupils back into the borough if appropriate. However, the needs of children will, and must, always be the top priority in deciding what educational provision is appropriate."

Councillor Brothwood said he was concerned about school places as a whole across Dudley with The Coseley School potentially facing closure and with hundreds of homes set to be built over the next decade. He said: "We are seeing schools close and lots of houses being built."

MAYOR VISITS TENNIS CLUB TO MEET ACE COACHES



Dudley Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho meets coaches Stacey Billingham (left) and Nikki Parkes, both of Brierley Hill, at Quarry Bank Tennis Club

THE Mayor of Dudley served up a civic seal of approval when he popped into an 'ace' tennis club.

Quarry Bank Tennis Club was highly commended at the Mayor's Ball and Civic Awards last week when it came third in the Duncan Edwards award for sport.

Councillor Steve Waltho popped in to the club, off Talbotts Lane, on Friday to formally present them with their certificate in recognition of their outstanding contribution to sport.

He met coaches Nikki Parkes and Stacey

Billingham, and youngsters who signed up to the Easter tennis club.

Councillor Waltho said: "It's great to see the young tennis stars of the future being put through their paces and it's clear to see from the way the club is run why they were nominated for the Duncan Edwards award for sport."

"Local sports clubs such as this help young people not only to learn new skills but to lead happy and healthy lifestyles too."

Chairman Steve Jasper said: "We are very proud of the club being commended, it's a

huge honour and great for everyone involved."

"It is a special moment for Nikki and Stacey, who have been involved with the club since they were youngsters."

The club, set up six years ago, currently has around 50 children and 50 adults taking part in sessions.

The two coaches were one of three nominations for the Duncan Edwards award for sport at the Mayor's Civic Awards last month. The Mayor praised all three nominees before announcing winner Zara Jade Turton, who has represented GB in rhythm gymnastics.

FOOTBALL

Drive to get blue plaque for Duncan

A FUNDRAISING drive is under way in order to get a plaque commemorating one of Dudley's most famous sons – Duncan Edwards.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin and Councillor Dave Tyler have teamed up to try to get a blue plaque installed in the town in memory of the Manchester United and England legend, who died from injuries sustained during the Munich air disaster in 1958.

Blue plaques, a scheme supported by English Heritage, celebrate the link between notable figures and the place where they lived.

EDUCATION

250 have their say over school's fate

AROUND 250 responses were received for The Coseley School public consultation over proposed closure.

The Dudley Council consultation, which began in February, came to an end at midnight last Tuesday.

But concerned parents have already begun the application process of transferring children to other schools.

Councillor Star Anderton, who represents the Coseley East Ward, said: "It is a terrible situation that these children have been left in."

ACCIDENT

Youngster hit by bus in town's High Street

A CHILD was hit by a bus in Brierley Hill on Monday morning.

The boy, whose age had not been released, was treated for a head injury but was not badly hurt after being struck in High Street just before noon.

The victim was checked over by paramedics at the scene but did not need to go to hospital, West Midlands Ambulance Service said.

An ambulance and three rapid response vehicles were sent to the scene of the accident and the boy was treated for a minor injury.

INSIDE

EYES HAVE IT FOR WHEEL SUCCESS



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Find cowards who broke mum's arm



Joyce Bennett was attacked

'IT'S devastating. It's heartbreaking.'
These are the words of sisters whose 78-year-old mother thought she was going to be killed by robbers who pinned her down in her own home.
Joyce Bennett suffered a fractured arm in the ordeal, which saw three men force their way into her Halesowen property.
One raider put a gloved hand over the terrified grandmother's mouth and held her down as the other robbers rifled through cupboards.
The terrified pensioner's attackers got away with her handbag and purse,

which contained a small amount of cash.
The robbery, which happened at 9pm on Wednesday, in Springfield Drive, bears striking similarities to an attack in West Bromwich at the end of March. Police said they were not ruling out the possibility of the two being linked.
Mrs Bennett's daughters have now made a plea for anyone who has information about the attackers to come forward.
Claire Roberts, 46, received a call from her distraught mother seconds after the attackers had fled. "She said

she had been burgled and that she thought she had broken her shoulder," Mrs Roberts said. She arrived to find her mother being treated by paramedics.
Mrs Bennett's other daughter Helen Neville, 49, said it was heartbreaking to think of how scared her mother had been. She said: "She remembers three men coming in and being pushed to the ground. One put a gloved hand over her face. She did say she thought they were going to kill her."
Anyone with information should call police on 101.

Inspectors tell care home it must improve

A NURSING home has been told it must improve its levels of safety and care.

In a report following an inspection by the Care Quality Commission, Woodview House Nursing Home was told its overall service 'required improvement'.

According to the report, medication was not being stored correctly, there were issues in communication and a failure to respond in a caring way.

The inspection at the home, in Hagley Road, Hayley Green, Halesowen, took place in February.

The report listed five key areas of its service that needed improving - safety, effectiveness, care, response and leadership.

Sean Tregonning, spokesman for Shaw Healthcare, which oversees the home, said: "We acknowledge that improvements are required and as the CQC report highlighted we are in the process of recruiting a new manager to implement our action plan."

Safety

The care home can care for up to 24 people with dementia and mental health problems.

The issues with safety was that medication records had not been accurately stored, meaning the care home could not 'ensure' the right medication was handed out.

There were also problems with communicating 'risks to people' which meant staff did not always have the right information to support people safely.

However the report also said staff knew 'the actions to take if they suspected someone was at risk of harm', and there were sufficient numbers of people on duty.

Covering the area of 'caring', the report requested that the care home improve.

It said staff did not always respond to distressed residents in a caring way. However staff could explain 'how to treat people with dignity'.

Residents and family members could express their views about the care, the report said, but it stated the service was not 'always responsive'.

The inspectors added there was a lack of meaningful activities available for residents, but complaints procedures were in place for people and relatives to voice their concerns.

Ribbon cut at new pound store



Store staff celebrate the opening of Poundland in Brierley Hill with the company mascot Pound Hound

A SECOND Poundland store has opened in Dudley borough.

Europe's largest single price retailer opened the store in units 2-5 of The Moor Centre, Brierley Hill as part of the company's 99p conversion, following the buy-out last year.

And with the 99p store on Dudley High Street looking set to close in the coming weeks, speculation is growing that Poundland could be set to take it over.

Poundland spokesman Joel Herga said: "Poundland is currently considering the acquisition of new stores to add to those already opened this year.

The stringent acquisition process ensures the new stores are positioned in the right location and fit Poundland's customer profile.

Popularity

"Due to the popularity of Poundland's product ranges, the

organisation is keen not to raise anticipation for a new store before plans are finalised."

The new store will also raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support as part of a national partnership.

All the money raised by the store will fund Macmillan's vital services. Since launching its partnership with Macmillan in 2009, Poundland has raised more than £1.5 million for the charity.

Studio has got X Factor for finding local talent

EXCITEMENT and nervousness was in the air as the glitz and glamour of the X Factor came to a Black Country music studio in the search for the next big thing.

While Simon Cowell may not have been there producers from the hit TV show rocked up at Base Studios in Stourbridge to see young hopefuls vying to be the next Leona Lewis or form their own version of One Direction.

The auditions held at the studios, off Rufford Road, on Saturday saw people waiting patiently to showcase their singing talents in front of the show bosses.

Among them was 27-year-old factory manager Mohsen Yafai, from Rodway Close. He said: "My mate heard about the auditions and told me I need to go, it was now or never. I sing all the time, it doesn't matter who I'm with or where I am, it's always been a huge passion of mine and cheers me up even on the darkest of days.

"I grew up listening to soul and RnB so that's what I stick to. I was nervous going in but the judges said I was amazing. I can't believe it."

Group Soul 4mation, consisting of Tra Richardson, aged 17, and 16-year-olds Rikardo Szczerba, Arnold Tshibangu and Milan Balaz, from All Star Vocals in Smethwick, were at their first ever auditions. Rikardo said: "We're nervous but it's a great opportunity for us as we've only been together for around six months."

Rehearsals for Britain's Got Talent were also held at Base in January.

Get the cycle bug at event in park

A CYCLE user group will be holding an open event for people to find out more about the club.

Stourbridge Bicycle Users Group (Stourbug) will be holding an open event at the Activity Centre, Mary Stevens Park, on Saturday from noon to 3pm.

Stourbug members will be on hand to inform people about club events and activities that take place throughout the year. These include rides for adults of all abilities, social activities and more. There is also the chance to sign up and become a member.

Stourbug has more than 250 members. The club exists to promote cycling in all forms and is not a racing club.

For more information contact Stourbug Chairman Peter Lucas on 07765002993.

Seven homes on former pub site

SEVEN homes will be built on the site of a former pub in Cradley.

The development has been earmarked for land on the corner of Intended Street and Hightown. The land has been empty since the Top Crown pub was demolished five years ago.

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Jail warning to mother as children home alone

A DUDLEY mother who left her two young children home alone in a insecure flat while going out drinking has been given a stark warning by a judge – behave or be locked up.

The woman admitted two charges of child cruelty with sentence deferred until August 4. She was told by Judge Amjad Nawaz she would be jailed if there was no improvement in her life.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard police, called to the block where the woman and her children lived to investigate problems with drunks. They found the four-year-old watching TV and the two-year-old in a bedroom at 1.20am.

There was no lock on the front door to the flat, revealed Mr Jonathan Veasey-Pugh, prosecuting, who added that when the 29-year-old mother returned she claimed to have only been away for a matter of minutes but police officers had been on the scene for at least 20 minutes before her arrival. She was also heavily intoxicated.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said the woman – who cannot be identified – was trying to get her life back on track and conceded: “It will be a long road but she is taking positive steps to sort herself out.”

Judge Amjad Nawaz told the woman: “You effectively abandoned your children albeit for a short time. You were in charge of these children and they were reliant on you for their safety. You have a chaotic life style and came back the worse for drink. “The ball is now in your court,” said the judge.

Don a onesie for big cat fundraiser

FUNDRAISERS are being invited to don their onesies to help one of the world's most endangered big cats.

This year's Onesie Walk at Dudley Zoo will take place on May 7. Money raised will go towards extending the closure for the attraction's trio of snow leopards – Makalu, Nanga and Margaash. The work will include a new viewing area and platform.

The event, around the 40-acre site, is open to all ages and offers participants a chance to see their favourite exotic animals on a 5km route.

Head of marketing Andrea Hales, said: “We want everyone to join in the fun.”

Participants are asked to raise at least £50 in sponsorship. To register, call 0844 474 2272.

One-way night time restriction

THE High Street in Quarry Bank has been one-way overnight this week.

Traffic will not be able to head east on the road until Saturday as resurfacing work takes place. Diversion are in place.

Retiring dentist plans new challenges



Iain Dale is retiring after 39 years

A LONG-serving dentist hopes to get his teeth into new challenges after saying a fond farewell to patients and staff.

Iain Dale will leave the dentist's chair at Worcester Street Dental Centre and Stourcote Dental Practice in Stourbridge after 39 years of service.

He said: “Being a dentist has always been a vocation and I've loved getting to know my patients and making sure they feel at ease when visiting the practices for check-ups, emergency treatments or orthodontics. Seeing how improving a smile can make such

a difference to their lives is a fantastic feeling.”

The popular dentist has been inundated with cards and goodwill messages from patients. He qualified as a dental surgeon in 1976 at Birmingham University and was given his first opportunity at Stourcote Dental Practice in Lower High Street.

“That's where my love affair with Stourbridge started,” said Mr Dale, who also chaired the Local Dental Committee for five years.

He has jointly owned Worcester Street and Stourcote since 2000 with

close friend and fellow dental surgeon Rob Payne. Maria Sotto-Mayor has taken over from Mr Dale.

Mr Dale said: “I want to say a big thank you to all the patients for their cards and good wishes and I know the two practices are in good hands to continue to deliver the excellent service we know.”

He is now planning new challenges, like completing the 268-mile Pennine Way Walk with his wife Julia and will also spend more time skiing, travelling and watching Coventry City with his daughter Imogen.

MP's call for action on sale of cannabis gear

POTENT marijuana seeds and all the equipment needed to start up a cannabis factory are being legally sold on the streets of the Black Country and Staffordshire.

Now, Dudley South MP Mike Wood is leading calls for a change in the law to limit the availability and increase the price of equipment, including specialist grow lamps, fertilisers and grow tents.

He will raise the issue in Parliament in a bid to clamp down on what he called the ‘scourge on our society’ of cannabis factories.

Mr Wood said: “There is no reason why any of this equipment should be so freely available when it is plainly obvious that it is being used to produce illegal drugs. I fully support any action to either or limit or ban its sale.”

It comes after West Midlands Police said the availability of grow equipment is a major factor in the huge numbers of cannabis farms in the area.

Suburban

Cannabis production – dubbed by the force as ‘the cash point of the criminal world’ – has direct links to other crimes including human trafficking and Class A drug dealing.

Last year the force seized more than 40,000 cannabis plants worth an estimated at £22m, in raids that spanned from large scale commercial operations to bedroom set-ups in suburban homes.

Police cannabis disposal team manager Mike Hall said: “It is all perfectly legal equipment but its availability has made growing cannabis easier. It would help if there was legislation against the gear and it was more difficult for people to get hold of.

“For some large scale enterprises we see people spending £15,000 on grow equipment. If we could make it so they had to spend £60,000 then they might be less likely to do it.”

More than 20 ‘grow shops’ that sell the equipment have opened up in the Black Country and Staffordshire in recent years, including two in Dudley.

The stores operate within the law and market themselves as sellers of hydroponics equipment. They are not allowed to sell seeds on the same premises, although seeds are available from specialist ‘head shops’. The seeds are generally accompanied by a warning that germinating them is illegal.



The Mayor's Pride of Dudley award has been won by Raj Kaur, from Unique Fitness, for children's free healthy eating and fitness classes

Winner's pride at being fit for award

A KIND-HEARTED Dudley gym owner who has gone the extra mile to help others was honoured at a prestigious ceremony.

Raj Kaur who runs Unique Fitness in the town was awarded the Pride of Dudley award for her achievements in the community.

The 47-year-old mother of three, who opened the Castle Hill gym in 2010, scooped the prize for running free healthy eating and fitness classes for children.

Mrs Kaur, who last year won the Pride of Birmingham award, said: “I wasn't expecting it at all.

“My classes are giving children top tips for healthy eating and helping them to interact with each other and get away from their phones or computers. Nutrition is a key point too.”

Mrs Kaur has also raised thousands of pounds for charities by holding special fitness classes and family fun days.

She added: “I'm currently trying to raise money for the hospital equipment at Russells Hall with the premature baby and the lung function unit.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teacher fronts TV recruitment drive

A MATHS teacher in Hagley is fronting a national TV campaign aimed at recruiting new teachers.

Jemma Sherwood, who works at Haybridge High School, near Stourbridge, appears in ‘Your Future: Their Future’ campaign to attract more people into teaching.

Jemma won a silver award for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School at the Pearson Teaching Awards 2015. She said: “I'm pleased to be part of this campaign and hope to encourage others to become teachers.”

Street lights to be more efficient

MORE than 700 of the most inefficient lights on main roads in Dudley borough are to be replaced after the council was handed £30,000 of Government cash.

The £29,997 pot will help upgrade 714 main road lights.

Once complete, the project will reduce peak demand by 100kw, the equivalent of around 800 kettles continuously boiling.

The project, which starts this month, will result in annual electricity savings of around £65,000 for the local authority.

Cracking talk on porcelain history

A TALK on the history of porcelain will be given at Wordsley Green Community Centre next week.

David Bartley will give the potted history of porcelain at 10am on Monday, April 18.

He will also value items of porcelain and china brought in by members of the public. It will be followed by a ‘bring and share’ buffet to celebrate the Queen's birthday.

The event is organised by Wordsley Townswomen's Guild.

Football pitch fees to rise across borough

PLANS to increase football pitch fees for scores of teams across the Dudley borough have been rubber-stamped.

This is despite a report last year claiming almost half of the pitches were in a poor condition.

Under new fee, the cost to hire a pitch and changing rooms next season will increase from £518 to £527.90.

Costs to hire facilities on a casual basis will be £50.49 per match, up from £49.50. Fees for junior football teams will rise from £182.90 to £186.56.

Match raises £10k

A CHARITY football match at Stourbridge FC's War Memorial Ground on Sunday raised more than £10,000 for the Mary Stevens Hospice.

A Stourbridge FC Select XI took on West Bromwich Albion All Stars in memory of former Stourbridge player Matt Webb's mother Jane.

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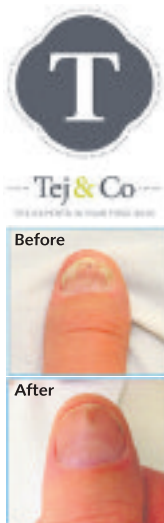
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FROM this week, dogs must be identity-chipped by law. But one expert Richard Allport, a senior vet and owner of the Natural Medicine Centre, says implanting the chip could prove fatal in small dogs or puppies. I'm pretty sure that's what killed our stick insect.

THEY say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but theft comes a pretty close second. I have shamelessly nicked the following from a reader's email because I can't improve upon it: "MPs fiddle expenses, rich avoid tax, unemployed fiddle benefits, traders fiddle VAT and tax, government fiddles statistics. It's what the Prime Minister refers to as all being in it together."

I WAS impressed, too, with an economical little note on my recent item about Enid Blyton's Famous Five. A reader writes: "Richmal could write Enid off the page." Can't argue with that. Richmal Crompton, creator of Just William, was for my money one of the best children's authors of all time. Better than Blyton. Better than Rowling.

THE Joy of 9 to 5 (Radio 4) wondered what had happened to the eight-hour day in a computer age when half of workers reckon to work more than 40 hours a week. Some interviewees claimed to put in lots of hours but do very little work. From my many years as an office slug, I can report that those who claim to be working hard rarely are, and the busy ones are the ones who never look busy.



THANKS for your tips on how to de-criminalise the Tom Jones hit, Delilah. As you may recall, the song is causing concern among folk who think it encourages

violence with the line: "I felt the knife in my hand and she laughed no more." We need a non-lethal object in the hand. A reader points out that the singer John Otway has already recorded a version with "I felt the spoon in my hand." Other readers have suggested that stopping Delilah laughing could be achieved with a pair of socks, the TV remote control or an Aston Villa season ticket. Good to see you're all taking it so seriously.

THE Royal Society of Public Health says obesity could be cut if food labels told us how far we need to walk to burn off the calories. It's a nice idea. But like so many nice ideas it is based on the middle-class assumption that the masses are woefully ignorant and if only they could be educated they would become lean, fit and healthy. Yet there can't be a single adult who does not already know which foods are healthy and which are not. And still millions choose to pig out on fat, sugar and salt.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Centre aims to ward off loneliness

A NEW centre is being launched to help older people conquer loneliness. Age UK Dudley has joined forces with affordable housing provider Housing & Care 21 to launch the centre in Brierley Hill. It will provide activities for older people and support for their carers.

The charity has moved to retirement housing scheme Myles Court on John Street, owned by Housing &

Care 21. It has relocated from Bromley Methodist Church in Brierley Hill to allow for more space and better opportunities to hold daily activities, entertainment and organise outings for older people in the area. Myles Court residents will also have access to all of the activities.

Teresa McKenna, head of retirement housing for the central region, said: "Schemes like Myles Court are

communities for older people so this is an ideal place for Age UK Dudley to provide these services."

Brian Phillips, senior manager at Age UK Dudley, said: "We are really excited to launch our new centre as part of this very exciting partnership."

"Myles Court is an ideal location to host our activities."

Age UK Dudley runs two minibuses to take people who use the

centre out on trips. The organisation relies on volunteer drivers and is appealing for help from any local people who can spare some time.

Myles Court is a retirement housing scheme with more than 90 apartments for older people.

For more information about Age UK Dudley or to volunteer as a driver, contact Brian Phillips on 01384 267 005.

Advice for elderly on staying safe in the home

A SERVICE aimed at keeping older and vulnerable people safe and well in their homes, will be out and about in Kates Hill, Dudley this month.

The living well, feeling safe service provides practical safety, security and wellbeing advice. It aims to make sure the elderly and vulnerable keep safe, secure and happy at home.

Service staff will be out and about visiting properties in and around Kates Hill for three days until tomorrow (Friday).

Free home assessments will be on offer with advice, tips and practical help provided on home safety and security, as well as on keeping comfortable, happy, independent and well.

Home safety and security equipment can be fitted and home and personal alarms will be offered, together with advice on general wellbeing, home improvements and adaptations, fire safety and crime prevention.

A drop in information day will also be held at The Ex Servicemans Club, 51 Hall Street, Dudley, from 10am to 4pm tomorrow.

The living well, feeling safe service offers free home assessments and advice to all older and vulnerable people, across Dudley borough.

Tony Oakman, strategic director of the people directorate at Dudley Council, said: "The living well, feeling safe service is ideal for any older or vulnerable person or couple who are feeling isolated or in need of extra support at home, or for people who are simply concerned about safety or security in the home."

Consultation over taxi cameras move

PLANS to launch CCTV on board taxis in the Dudley borough have gone out to consultation.

The plans were suggested after a driver was attacked and left seriously injured in a street in Brierley Hill.

Mohammed Ahmed was badly beaten and taken to hospital after the attack in Bell Street South on February 28. He has now been released and is said to be 'recovering well.'

The cameras would be used to record people and capture those damaging taxis or making off without paying in the borough.

Options will now be explored to either force the compulsory fitting of CCTV, allowing it to be optional for drivers or scrapping the plan together. It is expected to report back within around three months

Care home housing plan nears completion

A £1.3 million project to convert a former care home in Sedgley into housing is due to be completed later this month.

Arcal Lodge has been turned into six flats and eight apartments under council plans to build 300 dwellings.

Worker caught cashing in stolen scratch cards

By Clare Butler

A MAN who stole five packets of scratch cards worth £800 from his place of work was then caught on camera cashing them in, a court heard.

James Kennedy, aged 27, from Dudley was working at Costcutter in Church Road, Netherton alongside his then girlfriend Lisa Price.

Kennedy had been working in the back office when he stole five packets of £10 and £5 National Lottery scratch cards on the 'spur of the moment'.

Miss Price found a large quantity of the used cards in her shed and took them into the shop, where they were scanned and revealed to be from the stolen batch.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard how Kennedy, from Windsor Crescent, Dixons Green, had also been caught on camera cashing in two of the cards in Tesco. They were stolen between August and September last year.

Captured

Miss Harminder Hayre, prosecuting, said: "On October 5 last year a report was made to the police of a theft of scratch cards from Costcutter. Kennedy and his ex-girlfriend Lisa Price were living together and both had been working at the shop. Five packets were taken from the office containing £10 and £5 cards.

"Kennedy was then captured on CCTV at Tesco cashing in two of the cards before being arrested."

Kennedy, now a self-employed labourer, had previously pleaded not guilty to theft by employee at his first appearance in January. He changed his plea at a later date.

Mr Ranjit Bains, defending, said: "He had been doing work in the back offices and saw the cards, took the opportunity to take them but has now admitted he regrets that."

Kennedy was given a 12-month community order and 100 hours of unpaid work, was ordered to pay £800 in compensation to Costcutter, £500 costs and a £60 victim surcharge.

Natalie's riding high with art show



Natalie shows felt sculptures and paintings of horses at the exhibition held at Naissance De in Solihull

NATALIE Brooks has loved art and horses since she was a little girl.

The keen rider has now brought her two passions together to create an array of equine-themed felt sculptures.

Natalie, who lives in Lower Gornal, has recently held the first solo exhibition of her work, which was called A Stable Relationship, in Solihull.

Her pieces aim to capture the strength and movement of the horse and are created by needle felting – a technique believed to date back at least 6,000 years.

The wool fibres are manipulated physically, training the wool into the shape of the animal.

Although Natalie has always enjoyed art, she first qualified in equine science at Hartpury College in Gloucester and worked in the horse industry for some years.

Only later did she decide to go back to this area and complete an art degree, graduating from Hereford College of Arts in 2012.

During this time she refined her technique and spent time experimenting with materials and moving more to sculptural work rather than painting.

She said the exhibition held at Naissance De in Solihull had been a great success. "I am compelled to create, and I am going to keep making regardless, so to have this exhibition and outlet to bring my work to a greater audience is wonderful," she said.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Shakespeare songs for young singers

YOUNGSTERS are preparing to take the stage for a double celebration. The Youth Showcase concert on April 23 will feature the choirs of Elmfield School, Stourbridge, and the Summerhill Choral Society, Kingswinford. It will mark Shakespeare's birth and the 400th anniversary of his death as well as St George's Day at St James's Church in Wollaston at 7.30pm. It is being organised by Stourbridge-based Local & Live. Tickets are £9 on the door and free for under-18s.

MP Austin felled by timber works

A TIMBER firm in Dudley was visited for the first time by MP Ian Austin, who was impressed by the 'scale' of the business.

Mr Austin was welcomed by Chris Sutton, chairman and managing director of Lathams Ltd and was shown round the site at Yorks Park on Blowers Green Road.

Mr Austin said: "I have driven past the site thousands of times but you don't realise until you enter the trading office what's in there."

"I was amazed by the volume and range of high quality timber."

Retro fashion gets mayor's support

A NEW business in Dudley got civic approval during an official opening by the Mayor of Dudley.

Love the Dress in New Street had a visit from Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho and mayoress Mrs Jayne Waltho. Owner Helen Wade showed the couple around the dress shop which specialises in retro fashion 1950s style outfits. Councillor Waltho said: "I am pleased that new businesses are being encouraged to set up in the town centre."

Vets win prizes for comments on website

A VETERINARY practice in the Black Country has been crowned the UK's best 'mobile vets.'

Vets 2 You Mobile Surgery, based in Stourbridge, which is a branch of St George's Vets in Wolverhampton, won the Best UK Vets 'Mobile Vets' category.

Veterinary practices from across the UK competed to win the award, which is based on positive online reviews written by their clients on the VetHelpDirect.com website.

Lights may mean delay

TEMPORARY traffic lights are set to go up on a road near Wall Heath next week, potentially causing delays for motorists.

There will be disruption on Swindon Road between April 18 and 22 while BT lays cabling for new connections.

Director of Albion is president at chamber

A SENIOR West Bromwich Albion director has taken over as head of the Black Country's biggest business organisation.

Adrian Wright is the Baggies' sales and marketing director and has taken on the role of president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce after Kevin Rogers, boss of Wolverhampton firm Paycare, stepped down due to work commitments.

The 11th-hour change came as Mr Rogers was due to take over from the chamber's president for the last two years, Ninder Johal.

Mr Wright has more than doubled Albion's commercial income since his appointment in 2009 and has more recently been at the forefront of developing the club's links with the booming Indian football market.

Opportunity

Previously he was the head of corporate sales at Birmingham City Football Club from 2005 until 2010.

He said: "Obviously I am delighted by this opportunity, albeit my feelings are tinged with sadness. Kevin is a great leader and I was looking forward to working with him to deliver great results."

"The Black Country is a great place for business and I want to make sure that we navigate our way through the global headwinds and establish ourselves as the premier location worldwide for what we do best."

Kevin Rogers, chief executive of Paycare, has stepped down with "sincere regret".

Driver admits causing death

A MOTORIST has admitted causing the death of a motorcyclist by careless driving in Dudley.

Alan Holloway, of Adelaide Street, Brierley Hill, pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The June 30 crash, in Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill, cost the life of 50-year-old nurse Christian Davies.

The nurse from Martindale Walk, Amblecote, had been riding on his Honda CBR motorbike on the way to work at Russells Hall Hospital.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, told the court there was no suggestion either man had been speeding.

The 58-year-old defendant was remanded on bail until April 22 when full details of the case will be outlined and he will be sentenced.

Road closes during work on gas mains

RESIDENTS living along the busy Hagley Road in Stourbridge are facing disruption over coming weeks. A side road leading off the main road will be closed until April 29 as gas mains are replaced, meaning a diversion.

Tree planting roots out parking threat



Councillor Cotterill by one of the trees

TREES are proving the answer to rooting out problem parkers in a congested street.

Ten cherry trees have been planted on ground near Dudley Wood Methodist Church, in Netherton, to stop people using it as a makeshift car park.

The tree-planting prevents access for cars and the initiative was set up by Councillor Bryan Cotterill, of Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood.

He said: "The grass area is a residential area and not for car parking."

"The trees are far more pleasant than if bollards had been put up."

"They add to the ambience of the area and prove a lot more scenic."

"They make the area look a lot more attractive and hopefully they will stop people parking on the green."

"I am delighted with the outcome."

The trees planted are cherry blossom trees, but are still saplings and have metal wire and wooden supports to help them grow.

The initiative has been welcomed by members of the church, which stands in Quarry Road, Dudley Wood.

They praised the tree-planting for enhancing the appearance of the area

and stopping the problem of parking. Churchgoer Jean Attwood said: "We are very pleased that Dudley Council have found this great solution to the problem of vehicles parking on the grass verge and churning up the grass."

"It is also a beautiful way to improve the local environment."

"We need more planting of trees in Dudley borough."

Councillor Cotterill had raised residents' concern over the issue of parking with the council who then in turn sent staff out to plant the trees.

Refugee jailed after frauds totalling £28k

A POLITICAL refugee whose bank account was used to launder thousands of pounds obtained in frauds has been jailed for two years.

Toure Moussa of Durham Road, Rowley Regis, had denied three charges of converting criminal property, but was found guilty following a trial.

Loans were obtained from an online lender specialising in small business loans for £6,300 and £5,700 with the money being paid into a nominated account, which was Moussa's bank account.

"The fraud was quite sophisticated in nature, supported by copies of passports and energy bills," said Adam Western, prosecuting.

Loans company Ezbob only suspected something was wrong when no repayments were made on the two loans, so contacted the police who were able to trace the account to 32-year-old Moussa.

The other victim was a customer of online estate agents Chesterton's, who received an emailed invoice from the company requesting a payment of £16,309. That was followed up by a second email, purporting to be from the company, requesting that the payment be made into a different account.

Arrested

When Chesterton's chased up the payment and were told it had been paid into that other account, they contacted the police who again traced the account to Moussa.

When he was arrested Moussa denied having any involvement in the frauds, claiming he had simply allowed another man to use his bank account, not realising dishonesty was involved. Colin McCarragher, defending, said: "This is a 32-year-old man, the father of two children, aged seven and five, who both reside in Guinea Bissau where they are being looked after by his partner. He does his best to send money back to them from his £250-a-week income from his job sorting parcels."

Jailing Moussa at Coventry Crown Court, Judge Philip Gregory told him: "You played an active and extremely important role in a sophisticated fraud that went on for a number of months."

"As a consequence, a bank was cheated out of £12,000 which passed through your account, from which it was immediately withdrawn. More seriously, an innocent individual was defrauded out of over £16,000."

Stylish Peakys back with bang



Cillian Murphy, centre, returns as Tommy Shelby to lead an all star Peaky Blinders, cast

THE Shelby family are back and looking smarter than ever as the cast of hit TV show Peaky Blinders.

A sneaky peak of new series, which was partly filmed at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, will take place in Birmingham on May 4.

The cast will be at The Everyman Cinema in the Mailbox for a special screening of the first new episode. The red carpet event will

include actors Cillian Murphy, Paul Anderson and Packy Lee. Actor Sam Neill will not be playing Major Campbell in series three after Aunt Polly (Helen McCrory) killed him off.

They will be joined by the show's producers and Birmingham-born and writer and creator, Steven Knight, who will arrive at the screening in 'spectacular Peaky Blinders fashion', according to the BBC. The hit-show is

due to return in May and sees Hollywood heartthrob Tom Hardy reprise his role of Alfie Solomons. Joe Godwin, director of BBC Birmingham, said: "This event is going to be a real moment for the whole city to enjoy."

Fans are encouraged to dress in Peaky Blinders' style costumes with flat caps and 1920s attire.

Details of how to register for tickets to the special screening will be coming soon.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

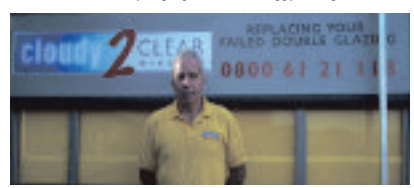
We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Scotsman is still just the ticket for rail fans

WHEN tickets went on sale to travel on a train pulled by the newly-restored Flying Scotsman at the Severn Valley Railway, the website crashed within minutes. Hours later, the website continued to have problems, as people clamoured for the 7,000 tickets released.

It's not really surprising. Flying Scotsman was a milestone in engineering, the first railway engine officially recorded as travelling at 100mph.

And all this was in 1934, when transport for many people was still a horse and cart.

But these were the days when innovation meant exciting new developments where the aim was to make everything faster, bigger, more powerful.

Do you think, 80 years from now, people will feel the same sense of nostalgia and affection for the iPhone or contactless payment? We've lost our imagination.

Oh, and one other thing. The Severn Valley Railway shows us that the old technology is considerably more dependable than the new stuff.

□ □ □

DO you remember James Billington, the comedian who caused a minor diplomatic spat by pretending to be the Mayor of Stafford?

Well, he's resurfaced again, and this time the joke is asking people to give him £1,000 to meet his bogus Russian bride.

Look, I know I'm a traditionalist, but didn't you prefer the days when comedians just told jokes?

□ □ □

MAYBE I should be angrier, but I really can't get very excited about the Prime Minister's historic offshore holdings. He once had £30,000 worth of shares in his father's company, which he sold six years ago, and paid the same amount of tax as he would have done anyway. If that's all there is to it, I think we're barking up the wrong tree.

Then again, perhaps it's because I participate in tax avoidance too. Like many of you, I have got some ISAs, which I do for the express reason of paying less tax. And why not?

We pay income tax and national insurance when we earn money, we pay VAT when we spend it, not to mention the plethora of so-called green taxes we have forced on us.

It is really fair that if we put something away for a rainy day, so we will hopefully become less dependent on the state in years to come, that we should be clobbered for that as well?

Particularly given that last week the Government revealed it would be spending £9 million on propaganda about the EU referendum, carefully timed to fall outside of the "purdah" period, when such use of funds would be outlawed.

Now that is what we should be bashing Cameron for.



Right direction – Dudley Market trader Javad Hussain



Veronica Corfield and Andrea Hubball in the town centre



Grace Wyld, 21 from Halesowen, with new public art in Dudley

Eyes have it as the wheel proves a hit

Piers Morgan sneered but the smiles of Dudley folk prove view of town is far from grim, **DAVID CALLAGHAN** reports

SINCE the arrival of an 114ft Ferris Wheel to the centre of Dudley, the town has been cast into the national spotlight.

The attraction – called the DY Eye – has been criticised and dubbed ‘the worst tourist attraction in Britain’ after outspoken TV presenter Piers Morgan also waded in to declare he could think of ‘no grimmer panorama than Dudley’.

But the attraction has proved so popular that it will remain open for an extra two weeks due to public demand.

The largest ever wheel to grace the Black Country made national news last month after Good Morning Britain host Morgan branded the DY Eye the worst tourist attraction in Britain.

But the controversial comments have proved great publicity the attraction, as the wheel aims to hit 10,000 visitors this weekend.

The 35 metre high giant observation wheel in Stone Street Square will now remain open for business until 6pm on Sunday, April 24.

Managing Director of Dudley Market Traders Association Len Lenihan said: “It’s brilliant news, it just shows how successful the wheel has been.

“We are delighted people have reacted so positively towards as we have worked hard to achieve this enterprise and keep it going.

“It’s the first time we have had an attraction of this size in the Black Country and it looks to have paid off.”

The news means the wheel will be in Dudley to mark the town’s St George’s Day celebrations on April 23.

Alan Lunt, strategic director at Dudley Council, said: “We’re delighted the wheel is staying for an extra two weeks and we hope businesses will continue to enjoy the benefits of a nationally renowned tourist attraction in



Wheely great – students and sisters Shantelle and Shardae McDonald love their home town

the heart of the town. We have been so pleased with the feedback from people who have ridden on the DY Eye and it is a fantastic boost to our ongoing work to promote Dudley as a great place to visit.

“If people haven’t had the chance to ride the wheel yet, there’s still time.”

Proud Dudley residents and workers have sprung to their town’s defence after the London-based media decided to scoff at the town’s attraction.

Javad Hussein, aged 29, who has been working on Dudley Market for 12 years, said: “The national stories about the wheel have been twisted around. It’s not a fair representation of Dudley at all. Working for so many years on the markets, I’ve seen the changes that have been made here. It’s been a very up and down process but everyone is trying to work in the right direction.

“What Dudley needs is mass investment, more shops need to be opened to attract more people so they can see what we can offer, but it’s unfair to see the criticism we’ve had as a town.”

Offer

Veronica Corfield, aged 70, from Coseley, said: “I come to Dudley at least three times a week, it caters for all my needs.

“It’s got a lot to offer – Wrens Nest is a geological site, we have the Black Country Living Museum, Dudley Zoo, a brand new college campus.

“People still come from far and wide and I can think of worse places to go. People only want to focus on the negatives of the town when in fact there are a lot of positives.”

Andrea Hubball, aged 59, of Wrens Nest, said: “When has Piers Morgan ever said any-

thing positive about anywhere or anyone? He gets paid to criticise.

“I’m proud to have lived and been brought up here, other people should be as well.”

Shops have benefitted from the introduction of the wheel with Arcade Toy Shop manager Dave Carter, aged 47 from Gornal, saying he has experienced an increase in trade.

“Our footfall has increased by 30 per cent, and we’ve seen sales rise by more than 25 per cent,” he said.

“We’ve had all kinds of people visiting the wheel and then coming into the shop.

“People knock Dudley, as it seems to be an easy target, but I think this is very unfair as we have plenty of heritage here.

“The wheel has views of the castle and surrounding areas, plus it’s a bit of fun for the family.

“The people of the town really did take objection to Piers Morgan’s comments about Dudley being dreary and dull, and he should take a ride and see for himself.”

Sisters Shantelle and Shardae McDonald, aged 21 and 22, were in town visiting family and decided to take a trip on the wheel.

Shantelle, who studies at London’s Kingston University, said: “At least it is trying to bring people into the town and be proactive, so the wheel is definitely trying to help the town for the right reasons.”

Shardae, who attends Manchester’s Metropolitan University, added: “It is a shame that when anything positive tries to happen in the town, it seems to be disregarded before it’s even given a chance.

“We are proud to have been educated and brought up here.”

Grace Wyld, aged 21 from Haden Hill, was visiting the town for the first time in over a year and was impressed by what she saw.

She said: “It’s changed a lot since I was last here, and for the better. The market looks really good and the Coronation Gardens look beautiful.”

Council leader Pete Lowe has branded Mr Morgan’s claims as ‘absolute nonsense’ and believes the view from he wheel shows the regeneration of the town.

Last week dozens rode the wheel wearing Piers Morgan masks in a dig at the presenter.

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Losing sight of good education values

IT is small wonder that morale is low in teachers (and doctors) when the Government continues to jack-boot its policies through, disregarding the views and opinions of the relevant experts.

Look what is happening to the junior doctors having new employment contracts forced upon them. We are supposed to be living in a democracy – this Government is becoming more like a dictatorship.

Forcing all schools to become academies is in my opinion unbelievably misguided, inappropriate and potentially

dangerous. Academies were introduced by Labour to improve education in areas of deprivation, particularly inner city schools – a laudable ambition. But in order to succeed a lot of money was thrown at the pilot schemes, and guess what, they had good results.

But fast forward. That extra funding didn't continue and we are becoming aware of the fact that some of the academies are failing.

The Government wants to be rid of all local education authorities, but what will also be lost will be guidance, checks and balances and accountability.

Academies will be far more autonomous, but it is my understanding that they are not directly accountable to the community they serve. They are more driven by financial considerations, targets, exam results and league tables.

Teachers' professionalism is being eroded and undervalued by the government. I feel we are losing sight of the values of good education and that is the trade-off for schools becoming exam factories and that academies will add to the decline.

A FERRIER
Kinner

Steel not a new issue

HERE we are again with the blame game over loss of jobs in the steel industry.

Why didn't Labour put in place contingency plans when they were in power? The problem is not new.

Bilston Steel Works made a profit and quality steel. It was closed down. Bilston has never recovered.

How long have we got to put up with these politicians and their empty promises?

B LAWLEY
Bilston

Upkeep is a real burden

I AM gratified that Ian Austin is supporting a clean-up of All Saints Cemetery at Sedgley. I have parents and relatives buried there and have long regretted its overgrown state. Its upkeep is a real burden.

As a footnote imagine my surprise to see Mr Austin at a partly collapsed grave next to my parents' which I tidied at Christmas.

A DRING
Kingswinford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Any more ways to destroy industry?

I CAN'T think of any other ways the Tories might find to destroy our heavy production industries. If you were to put your mind to the elimination of companies employing vast numbers of people, e.g. cement, aluminium and steel, I doubt if you could come up with many more plays than this Tory government has.

1: It goes ahead with so-called clean energy projects which then produce some of the most costly energy in the world whilst putting our energy requirements at risk by closing coal fired stations which produce cheaper energy; 2: It adds green taxes in line with lunatic promises to make UK the most green and pleasant land; 3: It connives to stop the EU putting up tariff barriers against Chinese steel which by every economic measure is being dumped on world markets often at below cost of production; 4: It pithers around for years and claims it has been working tirelessly to prevent the current chaos; 5: It kowtows to China, which then puts up tariffs on imported steel.

When I look at this and at Osborne's flaccid attempts to balance the books and rebalance the economy, I'm beginning to think that the Tories are as useless as Labour.

A M ETHERIDGE
Dudley

So hard to see doctor

ON March 30, my husband made an appointment to see our local GP. The first available date was April 11.

Why should it be so difficult to get an appointment? We have had the same local doctor for over 30 years and we were always able to see him the same or next day.

The practice now has three doctors, so could it be that they are just taking on more patients than they can adequately cope with?

DUDLEY RESIDENT

PM made a promise

WHEN Mr Cameron was elected as Prime Minister he promised to listen to the people, instead he is imposing a contract on junior doctors against their will. He has failed to hear the cries of British steel workers suffering from a trade deal with China that is destroying our steel industry. Now he intends to impose academy status on all schools.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

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Inside the old Savoy picturehouse in Stourbridge



The building as it looks now in Lower High Street



A care home is among the uses suggested for the former cinema



The cinema as it looked in 1920

Reel interest expected in old cinema building

AN iconic former cinema in Stourbridge has been put on the rental market just over a month after it was snapped up for £350,000.

The old Savoy Cinema in Lower High Street is up for rent on the Rightmove property website.

The property, which contains a series of interlinked buildings, was sold for £350,000 by estate agents Walton and Hipkiss back in February.

Now the new owner has put it up for rent, but also offered the option for people to snap the place up for £600,000.

Rental options for the 16,000sq ft building are for £5,333 per month or a total of £64,000 per year according to the online advert. A statement on the property's Rightmove page sets out the opportunities for investors.

This reads: "The property comprises a substantial premises that was formerly used as a cinema before being converted into a three-storey premises

MEMORY LANE

By David Cosgrove

and more recently used as a supermarket, nightclub and gym.

"Alternatively consideration will be given to the sale of the property with offers in the region of £600,000 sought for the freehold interest, subject to contract."

When it was previously sold, plans to develop the site into a care home or retirement complex were put forward.

The new owner was said to be in discussions with several 'interested parties' about the future of the site.

The historic building has not been used as a cinema for more than three decades and in recent years attracted controversy when it was a lap-dancing club.

It has also been used for retail purposes and most recently was a health and fitness club.

Groups wanting to reopen the Savoy as a cinema had shown interest but it

is now thought unlikely that will happen. The Savoy closed as a cinema in 1982 after more than 60 years as a picture-house, originally called the Scala. The Savoy closed as a cinema in 1982.

Its change to a lap-dancing club called Heaven attracted criticism from local politicians, while an investigation was launched after claims it breached its licence were made in a Channel 4 documentary.

The advert on Rightmove also hints there are development possibilities for the site, with the suggestion that it could be open for 'alternative uses'. A statement says anyone hoping to refurbish the historic building should speak with council planners.

The web advert states: "The property may be suitable for alternative uses and interested parties are advised to speak to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council's planning department."

The former cinema is one of a number of historic buildings in the town, sitting across the road from King Edward VI College and just down from The Mitre pub.



A poster for the Savoy dating back to the 1940s

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Yamlet – to be or not to be, ay it the question?

ONE of William Shakespeare's most famous tragedies is being translated into the Black Country dialect.

The move comes as part of a project that aims to celebrate and preserve the distinctive language of the region.

Yamlet will see the Prince of Denmark story's characters perform translated excerpts in locations around Cradley Heath.

The title character will be portrayed by an aspiring actor from Stourbridge.

Birmingham School of Acting post-graduate student Stuart Ash will be filmed on location in period Elizabethan costume and his performances will be broadcast throughout April on Facebook, Twitter and, of course, 'YowTube' and 'InstaYam'.

Mr Ash, an MA acting student at Birmingham City University, said: "It's a fantastic project for me to be working on and something that's very close to my heart."

Phrases

"I'm really proud of my Stourbridge roots, and playing Yamlet will be a great opportunity for me to tap in to that side of me as an actor. I've picked up a few words and phrases from the script that I'd never heard before."

"It'll be really interesting to see what people who are from the Black Country – and people who aren't – will make of it."

Yamlet has been devised by Philip Holyman and Gareth Nicholls, co-directors of Walsall-based theatre company Little Earthquake.

The pair are also both visiting lecturers at the Birmingham School of Acting, part of Birmingham City University.

The work has partly been inspired by the upcoming 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, on April 23.



Stuart Ash as Yamlet, which is being performed across the Black Country

Mr Holyman said: "With a ruff round his neck and a fake skull in his hand, Yamlet will celebrate Black Country cultural identity by capturing fragments of language which are in danger of being lost forever."

Yamlet was commissioned as part of the 'Where's Our Spake Gone?' project, supported by £77,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Since 2014, a team of linguists, historians and artists has been working alongside residents to explore ways to record and celebrate the distinctive

dialect and language of the Black Country.

Their efforts have focused in particular on four areas – Cradley Heath, Gornal, Oldbury and Tipton – each of which host public events featuring performances and exhibitions.

The project will generate an archive of oral history interviews, as well as photographic essays and short films, workshops, a commemorative book with accompanying DVD and several new artist commissions, including 'Yamlet'.

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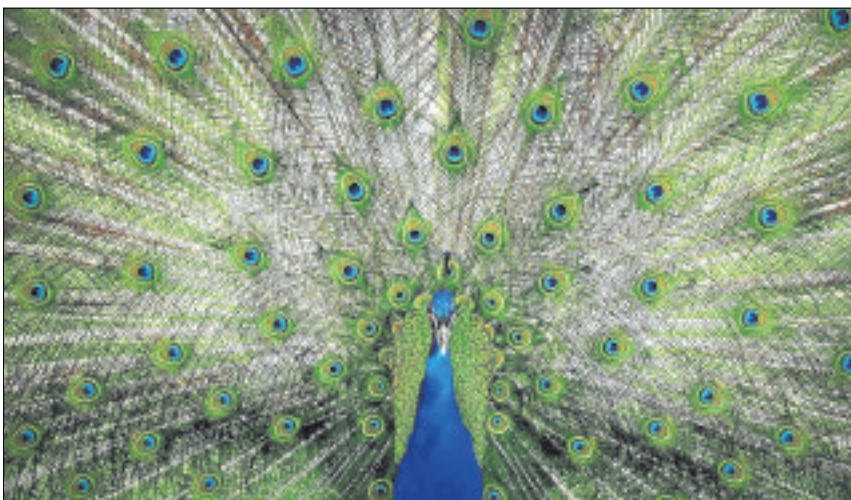
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Picture of peacock struts to award



Deepak Lal's peacock picture at Dudley Zoo ruffled the feathers of the Star Witness judges

WITH its bright blue, purple and green colours – this vibrant peacock is a behold to see as he spreads his wings. This beautiful bird was captured on camera at Dudley Zoo by Deepak Lal.

Mr Lal, aged 40, from Edgbaston, submitted the photograph for the Express & Star's Star Witness and the IT worker was January's winner, scooping £100. Mr Lal used

a Fuji camera to take a picture of the bird, which he noticed turn round to him and spread its feathers.

He said: "I happened to be passing through an area of the zoo when I saw the peacock, it stood looking at me with its feathers raised. 'The composition and the subject made the picture so impressive, I'm delighted with it.'"

Health chiefs' tough year

HEALTH bosses running services across Dudley say they are braced for a challenging period, despite meeting a planned £6.3 surplus.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group says it will need to focus on 'reducing financial risk' following the transfer of funding to Dudley Council for the Better Care Fund.

Speaking at a Dudley CCG board

meeting, chief financial officer Matt Hartland said: "The most important message is that it will be the toughest year for the board.

"We will be in a much tighter position and will need to focus on quality, innovation, productivity and prevention savings. All of our costs for the budget next year are under pressure."

The CCG will also be required to create a one per cent spend reserve and a 0.5 per cent contingency reserve.

Paul Maubach, director of commissioning development, said: "Our funding position is in a much better state than some of our neighbours. We have a one per cent transition reserve but will not be able to spend it due to the failings in other systems."

Steve Wellings, primary commissioning group chairman, said: "This is a financially managed organisation. Over the years we have taken that very seriously."

Council boss sorry over child services failings

DUDLEY Council chief executive Sarah Norman has apologised over a damning Ofsted report which rated the authority's children's services as inadequate.

"I can only apologise to the children, young people and families in Dudley that the services aren't good enough," she said.

An inspection by the watchdog flagged up long-standing, systemic failings across the department.

Government commissioner Eleanor Brazil has been appointed to help get children's services up to scratch, with a three-month remit to review the department's performance. If improvements are not made in that time children's services in Dudley could be taken over by the Government.

Ms Norman, who joined the authority in January 2015, admitted serious work had to be done to get the department back on track. However, she said the authority has already recognised the need for improvements and had got these under way.

The Ofsted report is critical across the board, with inadequate ratings for 'children who need help and protection', 'children looked after and achieving permanence', 'adoption performance', and 'leadership, management and governance'.

It adds some vulnerable youngsters had to wait for three months for contact with a social worker.

The performance of councillors also comes under fire, prompting calls for the heads of former cabinet member for children's services Councillor Tim Crompton and council leader Pete Lowe by their political opponents.

Ms Norman said she fully accepted the findings of the report and warned it could take 'months' to make the needed improvements.



Council chief executive Sarah Norman has apologised after the Ofsted report

Take art with festival event

A TWO-day arts festival takes place in Cradley Heath this weekend.

Cradley Heath Creative is hosting the event, called Grassroots.

It will feature a variety of art activities – from art workshops to performances, an exhibition, a collective paint-by-numbers and an ongoing mural.

There will also be showings of films of Black Country people made by artist Martin Parr, courtesy of Multistory, as well as history and zombie films

made locally. The festival is attracting artistic types who live in Cradley Heath and those from further afield. Performers include Billy Spake Mon, Walsall Poetry Society and The Sham-bollocks.

It will take place the Hollybush pub, on Newtown Lane, on Saturday, from 11am until late, and on Sunday, between 11am and 5pm.

For more details, contact Fran Wilde, chairman of Cradley Heath Creative on 07952 563725.

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Striking doctors: We feel backed into a corner



Striking junior doctors join the picket line at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley

“WE feel like we are being backed into a corner to fight for the survival of the NHS.” Those were the words of trainee anaesthetist Karim Salem, a junior doctor who went out on strike in the Black Country last week. Hundreds of appointments were cancelled as junior doctors – objecting to a new contract – left their posts for their third 48-hour action. Mr Salem was among around a dozen people on the picket line at Wolverhampton’s New Cross Hospital. He said: “For most of us the decision to

walk out is a difficult one. The public is on our side, the government needs to listen to us. “Tired doctors make mistakes. I wouldn’t want to fly on a plane with a tired pilot.” Emily Gibney, trainee anaesthetist, also said tiredness was a ‘worry’. “We are already short of staff and don’t want to be stripped any further,” she said. Around 15 staff were also out in force at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley. Catherine McGrath, the hospital’s junior BMA doctor representative, said: “We still consider the new con-

tract to be unfair, unworkable and unsafe for patients. “We are frustrated and disappointed with the Secretary of State who hasn’t been out to engage with us. “If the new contract goes through there could be quite a couple of serious repercussions.” Junior doctor Samantha Hughes, said: “We are out here protesting because we feel the current contract is unfair and unsafe for patients. We already have gaps for the rotas for staff. “I hope the government will agree with what we are saying and come back to talk to us.”

Chairman in charge of last meeting

Wollaston E TWG

THE March meeting, which was mostly taken up by the AGM was well attended, with Jean Latham taking control of her last meeting as chairman. Jean has now stood down after five years of very successful leadership and Julie Willetts will replace her. Jean Millward has also resigned after many years as a committee member, and best wishes go to both. All officers and the new committee were introduced to members. A thank you letter had been received from the children’s charity Little Hearts, for the donation from the group’s carol service. A thank you acknowledgement from Brenda Adkin following her operation had also been received. Apologies were read, then the secretary presented the minutes of the previous meeting which were duly signed and passed. She followed with annual reports from all sub-sections and the treasurer’s annual financial report. The annual dinner, to be held at Hagley Golf and Country Club on May 31, will cost £23 per person. Sandra Oliver and Pat McEwan, recipients of the bowls shield and competition cup respectively, were presented with their trophies by the chairman. The evening concluded with a noisy game of Beetle, while raffle prizes went to Liz Walker and Gwyneth Rudge. Meetings are at St James Church Hall, Wollaston. New members are welcome.

Meeting enjoyed by biggest turnout yet



Newly-elected committee members practise their tea making skills

ALAN Tumber entertained ladies at the March 16 meeting with some good old fashioned songs and poetry. This was the group’s biggest turnout to date with 61 ladies. Afterwards they all enjoyed a cup of tea. On March 23, the group held its first AGM which was attended by some of its members. This went smoothly and the committee was re-elected. The next meeting will be on April 20 at Lower Gornal Darby and Joan from 10am

Gornal Wood TWG

until noon. It will feature a rag-rugging demonstration by Pam Favil. Everyone will get the chance to make something. To celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday an afternoon tea is being organised for April 23 at Zoar Methodist Church from 2-4pm. Tickets are limited and cost £7.50 on a first come first served basis.

Speaker wings in for return visit

Clent Gardening Club

THE chairman welcomed a healthy turnout for the first meeting of the year at Clent Village Hall. Patrick Clement from Halesowen gave a talk entitled ‘Garden Moths & Butterflies’, making a welcome return after a successful talk last year on Wildlife in the Garden. Patrick displayed an impressive and spectacular range of photographs. He

said there were around 20 species of butterflies and 600 types of moth to be found in the UK and explained how to identify the difference. The popular myth that butterflies are pretty to look at but moths are somewhat dowdy was soon dispelled as Patrick provided some spec-

tacular examples of colourful moths. He dispelled the myth that moths are nocturnal, saying they were difficult to spot during daylight hours due to camouflage when stationary and speed of flight when airborne. The chairman thanked Patrick for an entertaining and informative talk. He then drew the raffle and announced the results of the monthly competitions.

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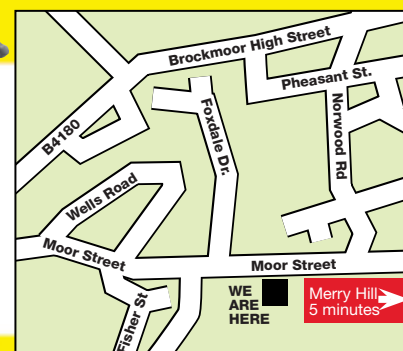
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Before this latest development, the original company, Your Choice Bathrooms, had established itself as one of the leading bathroom companies in the West Midlands, with showrooms in Lichfield Road, Wednesfield and Stallings Lane, Kingswinford. Darren has been

joined in this latest venture by Co-Director Rodger Danks who is an old school friend Darren has known for more than 40 years.

Rodger has been in the Construction and Property Development Industry for 30 years so brings a wealth of experience to the partnership and of course is no stranger to dealing with kitchen manufacturers and suppliers.

"This complementary addition to the existing business is a natural progression for the company, building on the success already achieved by Your Choice Bathrooms," explains Rodger.

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Premises in Charterfield Shopping Centre, Kingswinford

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

ers' one son Chad Danks whilst his other son Matt will take up the post of Sales Manager.

The new 90 sq metre showroom is bright and airy with five permanent British-made Kitchens layouts on display with an almost endless permutation of range and finishes to ultimately choose from, at a price to suit you.

Friendly

Both showrooms are open daily and once you have a good look around, the friendly and welcoming team are on hand to answer any questions you may have.

They can advise and help you with ideas and inspiration, assisted by a full 20/20 CAD design facility which will help turn your ideas into reality.

They can even tailor make hand-made bespoke cabinets to fit those awkward shaped corners that seem impossible to get anything to fit into.

They offer a range of high spec appliances to complement the kitchen of your choice. Appliances

from Shakers, Smeg, Bosch, Siemens and CDA are available.

Reassuringly, as with the Bathroom side of the business, all trades including the fitters, plumbers, electricians, tilers and floorers are all 'in house' ensuring a smooth transition from 'one trade to another' as your kitchen is being installed!

So whether you are looking for a Kitchen makeover/refurbishment, replacement doors, appliances, new work surfaces or of course a complete replacement kitchen, drop into their Kingswinford showrooms and see what you think.

And now has never been a better time with an opening offer of a FREE CANOPY AND EXTRACTION UNIT WORTH £100 with every kitchen installation.

For more information visit our website: www.yourchoice-kitchens.co.uk or pop in to see us and we can answer any questions you may have whether it be Kitchens or Bathrooms.

It makes sense for us to be Your Choice.



Stylish bath is a very popular choice

YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

YOUR CHOICE... FOR A BETTER BATHROOM

THE LOCAL SPECIALIST IN BATHROOM REFURBISHMENT

We want YOUR CHOICE to be us...

**EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR
£3850.00**

- 90x90 Quadrant Cubicle with low level tray • 15 SQM Wall Tiles
- Tiled Floor • Replacement Shower • New Basin & WC
- All Rubbish Removed

WE OFFER A FREE NO OBLIGATION HOME VISIT & ON THE SPOT PRICE WITHIN 48 HRS OF YOUR CALL



WE DO THE LOT IN 5 DAYS

THIS WEEKS BATHROOM SPECIAL

Are you having problems getting in and out of your Bath? We will remove the Bath & Fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle and tiled inside.

Supply a new replacement shower. A Folding Seat & Grab Rail.

**ALL FOR ONLY
£2150.00**

APRIL & MAY FITTING DATES NOW BEING RESERVED

"Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budgets of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers"

EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR OUR RETIRED & DISABLED CUSTOMERS

Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford, DY6 7SH

TELEPHONE: 01384 287222



Open 9am - 5pm 6 days a week
Showroom also at: Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, WV11 1TW. 01902 861908

VAT FREE
IN QUALIFYING CASES

Vintage items can put stamp on room

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

By John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



WE ARE all a little budget-conscious at present and, for anyone trying to furnish a new home, it can seem a pretty daunting task.

It needn't be. You don't have to buy brand new furniture. In fact it's more fun to put your own individual stamp on your rooms with vintage items.

You can pick up old pieces of furniture for very affordable prices and it doesn't matter if they look a bit battered, a little work will make them appear completely different!

Painted furniture is currently hugely popular – look out for those cupboards with different coloured drawers and 'shabby chic' chairs – and you don't have to be an expert to create a good finish.

Old wooden chairs do look great painted in bright colours, little cupboards can be transformed into bedside cabinets and don't be afraid to mix and match.

There are some really lovely furniture paints around, in a variety of attractive shades, and these will lend a completely new lease of life to old tables, chairs, cupboards, you name it.

Stencilling has also become popular once more and if you have the time it makes items look that bit different.

It's great to create your own individual interior design scheme, buying 'off the peg' means you have exactly the same furniture as lots of other people.

So decide on a budget and what furniture you need, then make a list of things to look out for.

Remember that it isn't a crime to combine contemporary items with vintage pieces, as long they look good together, and furniture that looks 'too modern' can be painted to fit in with the overall room design.

You will be pleasantly surprised at the very reasonable prices currently paid in the antiques saleroom for tables, chairs, desks, sideboards, wardrobes, beds and bookcases.

Dark pieces in particular sell very cheaply, even if they are well-made and in good condition, and, if you think they might look little gloomy, get that paint-brush out!

Old pine is also very affordable just now, you could furnish a bedroom with bed, cupboard, wardrobe and swing mirror on a relatively small budget.

Oak and mahogany dining tables can be matched with various chairs, that don't literally have to match, and old sideboards provide excellent storage space for plates, cutlery and glasses.

A kitchen can be free-standing rather than totally fitted, again you can find old Welsh dressers, cupboards, benches and pine tables in the saleroom.

An old pine washstand would look good in a bathroom, plus some vintage shelves and a towel stand.

Even your home office can be furnished with antique pieces, ranging from desks and chests of drawers to cabinets and file boxes.

So head off to the saleroom and snap up those furniture bargains – and remember that even those that appear dark and gloomy can be transformed with a lick of paint!

Perry and Phillips holds valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm at their Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, and auctions of antiques and collectables are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Even the cheapest jewellery can be priceless



The choice of style is endless



Diamonds are forever sought after

THE jewellery we wear defines us, it is an extension of our personality, a sentimental token or finish to an outfit, allowing us to express ourselves and our individuality.

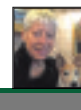
Jewellery has been worn for 100,000 years, originally to define the wearers rank or political and religious status. Egypt, India and China developed the earliest items and the style of specific pieces characterize an era.

In the 20th Century the 1920s brought long strings of beads, the 1940s brooches of all shapes and sizes, angular plastic bangles in the 60s and large fancy earrings in the 80s, more recently large elaborate beaded collar necklaces have been popular and as with clothing the trends continue to change year on year.

Spring/summer brings with it dramatic statement earrings, large and elaborate multiple rings on fingers, stacked bracelets and striking necklaces. The choice of style and price is endless, high street shops such as Claire's Accessories offer affordable shiny delights and items from Pandora and Swarovski are sought after gifts for birthdays and Christmas. No matter what your budget

STYLE FOCUS

With Janet Timmis



may be there will be something suitable. I find it delightful that a £1 necklace from a supermarket can be re-boxed to make a lovely gift. Locally 'Temptations' in Market Drayton has traditional and contemporary pieces full of character and originality.

Jewellery, like music, can also make memories, bought to mark occasions, births, marriages, achievements. I have jewellery owned by my grandma, pieces bought on holidays, given to me by family and charity shop bargains. My favourites include a piece of a glass chandelier, bought in Venice and worn as a necklace and a silver necklace stamped with my son's fingerprint. The designers have pushed the boundaries using unusual combinations of materials, motivational quotes, prints, and enamels. Wedding rings are no longer a simple gold band but available in

steel, titanium and bronze with inset diamonds and engraved words, the design is as important to the groom as it is to the bride.

The tradition of giving an engagement ring was introduced by Maximilian of Austria in 1477 although the Egyptians gave braided papyrus rings to symbolize eternity, the hole in the middle a gateway leading to the future. It is said that the wedding ring is worn on the third finger left hand as it was believed a vein in that finger is directly connected to the heart, scientists have proved this not to be the case but the tradition remains.

The combination of gold and diamonds is forever sought after. The majority of today's diamonds are mined in South Africa, the name diamond derived from an ancient Greek word meaning 'unbreakable' and they are created by deep volcanic eruptions. The first synthetic diamonds appeared in the 1950s and continue to delight. The most well-known is cubic zirconia. How would anyone know if the jewel you wear was real or synthetic?

Visit www.jfexclusive.com, www.jfgarmentsolutions.co.uk, follow [jflifeandcloves](https://www.tumblr.com/jflifeandcloves) on tumblr



Sociable Boxer Bailey loves to give cuddles



Happy-go-lucky crossbred Smithy



What about a St Bernard? Loveable Oliver has a very big heart

Doggy OAPs still have plenty to offer as pets



Toodle Pip the terrier is full of fun

DOGS Trust Shrewsbury is 'full to the rafters' with elderly dogs and staff are reaching out to local dog lovers in the hope they will consider adopting a 'doggy OAP'.

Dogs Trust consider any dog aged eight and over as elderly, and there are currently 35 dogs at the Roden based animal shelter who fit this bill.

As the rehoming centre reaches out to the dog loving public, staff hope to challenge the elderly dog stereotype that put off many potential owners from adopting such a dog.

Shapes

Dogs Trust Shrewsbury supporter relations officer Lee Pogson explains: "We cater for dogs of all shapes, sizes and ages at Dogs Trust."

"Recently we have noticed a spike in the average age of the dogs here at Shrewsbury, we aren't sure what's sparking the trend but we will care for each and every one of them until they find a forever home."

"Many people believe older dogs have their best years behind them but this couldn't be further from the truth.

"No dog is too old to learn new tricks and most mature dogs are already housetrained

Report by Rachel Jenkins

so they are very clean and tidy in a home. "Older dogs are often calmer too, and more independent so can be left to occupy themselves for longer periods.

"There are countless reasons an older dog can make a wonderful companion, so please don't rule them out."

Current doggy OAPs currently awaiting forever homes at Dogs Trust Shrewsbury include:

Bailey, Boxer, 13 years old – Bailey is a wonderful dog and a favourite with all the staff. She currently lives at Oakfield, Shrewsbury's old dog's home. She loves her food and plenty of cuddles. She's a sociable lady with lots of character. She can live with children aged 10 and over. Bailey will make a wonderful addition to a loving family home.

Oliver, St Bernard, 11 years old – Oliver is a big dog with an even bigger heart. This lovely boy is looking for a cosy home with owners who will shower him with lots of attention as he loves human company. Oliver would like his owners to be around for the majority of the time. He can live with young children and potentially another pet in his new home.

Smithy, Crossbreed, eight years old – Smithy is a happy-go-lucky, handsome

chap who doesn't reflect his eight years. He has a very friendly personality and loves lots of fuss and attention from his canine carers. Smithy is looking for a home where he will be the only pet so he can lap up all the attention himself. He can live with children aged 10 and over.

Toodle Pip, Terrier cross, 10 years old – Toodle Pip is a typical Terrier with a great personality and the looks to match. He's self-sufficient and will happily amuse himself all day long. He enjoys the company of other dogs and loves playing when he is out on walks.

He is looking for an experienced home with adult owners who will give him the peace and quiet he needs in his old age. Toodle Pip will make a loyal companion to the right owner.

If you're interested in rehoming any of Shrewsbury's wonderful OAPs contact the Dogs Trust on 0300 303 0292 or visit <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/our-centres/shrewsbury/> for more information.

Dogs Trust is working towards the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction.

Dogs Trust is the UK's largest dog welfare charity and cares for nearly 17,000 dogs each year through its network of 20 Rehoming Centres across the UK and one in Dublin.

live happy! with Slimming World

THURSDAY

NEW CONSULTANT

Hagley

Hagley Primary School
Park Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Terry 07807 028308

TUESDAY

Hasbury

Christian Fellowship
Albert Road
9.30am and 11.30am
Michaela 07901 583236

Halesowen

Lutley Community Centre
Brook Willow Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Michaela 07901 583236

Pedmore

Hobgreen Primary School
Hobgreen Road, Pedmore
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Paula 07846 847068

WEDNESDAY

New Group

Pedmore

Hobgreen Primary School
Hobgreen Road, Pedmore
5.30pm
Paula 07846 847068

New Morning Group

Old Hill

Holy Trinity Church
Halesowen Road
9.15am
Sarah 07815 071982

Old Hill

Holy Trinity Church
Halesowen Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Sarah 07815 071982

THURSDAY

Cradley Heath

Liberal Club

Upper High Street
9.30am
Kim 07882 726067

Cradley Heath

Liberal Club

Upper High Street
5pm and 7pm
Kim 07882 726067

Halesowen

St Peter's Church
Hiplands Road, Lapal
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Elaine 0121 550 6414

Hagley

West One
159 Worcester Road
9.30am
Charlotte 07565 659357

SATURDAY

New Venue

Halesowen

The Scout Centre
Elizabeth Road
8.30am, 10.30am
and 12.30pm
Kerry 07508 838158



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Sunday 1st May 2016

Challenge walks of 6, 9, 12, 20 or 28 miles within and around Dudley borough
Starts and finishes at Dudley Leisure Centre, Wellington Road, Dudley DY1 1HU

Open to walkers of all ages

Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult. Small entry fees apply

For further information call 01384 817817 or 0300 555 2345
or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/dudleytrail (online applications now available)

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What's New

April-July 16

★ 1993-2016 ★ ALL PLACES MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE



The Wordsley School
Brierley Hill Road, Wordsley Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 5SP

★ 1993-2016 ★

FREE TASTERS — pre booking essential

DANCE FIT

Tues 19 Apr 17.30-19.00 1 wk. **FREE**

FRENCH BEGINNERS

Tues. 26 Apr. 18.00-19.30. 1 wk. **FREE**

PLAY THE GUITAR BEGINNERS

Tues. 26 Apr 19.00-20.30 1 wk. **FREE**

LANGUAGES

FRENCH

Beginners: Tues. 3 May. 18.00-19.00. 9 wks. £32.40#
Improvers: Tues. 19 Apr. 19.00-21.00. 11 wks. £73.70#
Inters: Mon. 18 Apr. 19.00-21.00. 10 wks. £67.00#
Advanced: Thurs 21 Apr. 19.00-21.00. 11 wks. £73.70#

ITALIAN

NEW Beg: Mon 9 May. 15.30-17.00. 8 wks. £43.20#
Cont Beg: Mon 18 Apr. 09.30-11.30. 5 wks. £36.00#
Cont Beg: Mon 6 June. 09.30-11.30. 5 wks. £36.00#
Improvers: Mon 18 Apr. 12.00-14.00. 10 wks. £67.00#

SPANISH

Beginners: Wed 20 Apr. 12.00-13.30. 6 wks. £32.40#
Beginners: Wed 8 June. 12.00-13.30. 6 wks. £32.40#
Cont Beg: Wed 20 Apr. 14.00-15.30. 11 wks. £59.40#
Improvers: Thurs 21 Apr. 13.30-15.30. 10 wks. £67.00#

PORTUGUESE

Improvers Tue 19 Apr. 12.00-14.00. 6 wks. £43.20#
Improvers Tue 7 Jun. 12.00-14.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

ARTS AND CRAFTS

PAINTING AND DRAWING

suitable for all levels
Tues 19 Apr. 19.00 - 21.00. 11 wks. £73.70#
Wed 20 Apr. 09.30 - 11.30. 11 wks. £73.70#
Thurs 21 Apr. 10.00-12.00. 10 wks. £67.00#
Thurs 21 Apr. 13.30- 15.30. 10 wks. £67.00#

WATERCOLOURS FOR BEGINNERS

Mon 9 May. 14.30-16.30. 3 wks. £27.90#

CREATIVE WRITING

Mon 18 Apr. 19.00-21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

Thurs 28 Apr. 19.00-20.30. 10 wks. £54.00#

HANDICRAFTS

LEARN TO SCULPT IN STONE

Tues 26 Apr. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £42.00#

UPHOLSTERY

suitable for all levels
Tues 19 Apr. 12.00-14.00. 11 wks. £73.70#

UPHOLSTERY & SOFT FURNISHINGS

Wed 20 Apr. 12.00-14.00. 11 wks. £73.70#

PATCHWORK

(Improvers)
Wed 20 Apr. 14.30-16.30 11 wks. £73.70#

SEWING MADE SIMPLE

Thurs 21 Apr. 18.00-20.00. 11 wks. £73.70#

DRESSMAKING FOR BEGINNERS

Tues 19 Apr. 09.30-11.30. 11 wks. £73.70#

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINDFULNESS

Mon 6 June. 19.30-21.00 4 wks. £27.90#

FIRST AID

EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Fri 29 Apr. 12.30-15.30. 2 wks. £38.40

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID.

Fri 22 Apr. 12.30-16.30 1/2 day. £25.60

COMMUNITY SESSIONS

Weekly pay as you go sessions

ADULT SWIMMING: Mon. 12.30-13.15 £3.50
Thurs.19.00-20.00. £3.50

AQUAFIT: Wed. 12.30-13.15, Fri.11.45-12.30. £3.50.
Wed.19.00-20.00, Sun. 9.00-10.00. £4.50

FITNESS SWIM: Mon. 18.00-18.45. £3.00
for 10-19 yrs olds

INFORMATION? 07963 986672

HEALTH AND FITNESS

PILATES

Short and Sweet

Introduction: Thurs 21 Apr. 17.45-19.00. 6 wks. £27.00#

Introduction: Thurs 9 June. 17.45-19.00. 6 wks. £27.00#

Beg.@ Oakfield: Fri 22 Apr. 10.00-11.00. 12 wks. £48.00#

Improvers: Tues 19 Apr. 19.00-20.00. 12 wks. £43.20

Improvers: Wed 20 Apr. 18.30-19.30. 12 wks. £43.20

Improvers: Thurs 21 Apr. 19.05-20.05. 12 wks. £43.20

Improvers: Thurs 21 Apr. 20.10-21.10. 12 wks. £43.20

FITNESS YOGA

Tues 19 Apr. 20.05-21.05. 12 wks. £43.20

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS:

Beginners: Mon. 18 Apr 19.00-19.45. 11 wks. £34.65#

Improvers: Mon. 18 Apr 19.45-20.30. 11 wks. £34.65#

Inter/Adv Mon. 18 Apr 20.30-21.15. 11 wks. £34.65#

MUSIC

PLAY THE GUITAR

Intermediates: Mon. 18 Apr. 19.00-21.00 10 wks. £67.00#

Beginners: Tues. 3 May 19.00-20.30 10 wks. £54.00#

Improvers : Thurs. 21 Apr. 19.00-20.30 11 wks. £59.40#

PLAY THE GUITAR FOR CHILDREN (8YRS+)

Beginners (1) Mon 18 Apr 16.45-17.45 5 wks. £45.75

Beginners (2) Mon 18 Apr 17.45-18.45 5 wks. £45.75

Beginners (1) Mon 6 June 16.45-17.45 6 wks. £54.90

Beginners (2) Mon 6 June 17.45-18.45 6 wks. £54.90

Improvers Thurs 21 Apr 17.45-18.45 6 wks. £54.90

Improvers Thurs 9 Jun 17.45-18.45 6 wks. £54.90

DANCE

DANCE FIT

Tues 26 Apr 18.00-19.00 11 wks. £39.60#

Tues 19 Apr 19.00-20.00 12 wks. £43.20#

BALLROOM & LATIN AMERICAN DANCING

Beginners Mon 18 Apr 18.45-19.45 10 wks. £36.60

Imp/Inter Mon 18 Apr 19.45-21.00 10 wks. £45.70

BASIC COMPUTER COURSES

COMPUTING : THE BASICS

Tues 10 May. 14.30-16.30 3 wks £21.60#

COMPUTING SKILLS: INTERNET+ E MAIL

Tues 7 June. 14.30-16.30 3 wks. £21.60#

COMPUTER COURSES

(Basic computer and internet skills are required)

CREATE YOUR OWN WEBSITE

Tues 26 Apr. 19.00-21.00 5 wks. £36.00#

BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY

Tues 3 May. 19.00-21.00. 4 wks. £28.80#

Tues 7 June. 19.00-21.00. 4 wks. £28.80#

Tues 7 June. 9.30-11.30. 4 wks. £28.80#

AN INTRODUCTION TO MACBOOKS

Tues 7 June 09.30-11.30 4 wks. £28.80#

AN INTRODUCTION TO IPAD

Tues 26 Apr 09.30-11.30 1 wk. £7.20#

Tues 7 June 09.30-11.30 1 wk. £7.20#

IPAD APPS

Tues 3 May 09.30-11.30 1 wk. £7.20#

Tues 14 June 09.30-11.30 1 wk. £7.20#

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR IPAD

Tues 21 June 09.30-11.30 3 wks. £21.60#

Tues 10 May 09.30-11.30 3 wks. £21.60#

QUALIFICATIONS

DUDLEY MBC INDUCTION TRAINING FOR POOLSIDE ASSISTANTS

Fri 17 June. 09.00-12.00. 3hrs. £19.20

Or Mon 5 Sept. 09.00-12.00. 3hrs. £19.20

LEVEL 2 AWARD IN FOOD SAFETY IN CATERING

Thurs 21 Apr. 17.30-21.00. 2 wks. £48.00

NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD

Mon-Sat 25-30 July. 08.30-17.00. £220.00

Mon-Sat 1-6 Aug. 08.30-17.00. £220.00

(Includes course manual and assessment fee)

Funded by

Skills
Funding
Agency



Reduced Fees: Where you see this # sign the course is supported by The Skills Funding Agency. If you are in receipt of certain benefits fees are reduced to 25%. Price in brackets (i) includes additional costs.

Course Dates: Courses are suspended on 2nd May and 28th May to 5th June unless stated otherwise

This programme is subject to change: particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is accurate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We reserve the right to amend details as required.

PLEASE NOTE: With effect from September 2015, due to a card processing change through Dudley MBC, a 1.2% charge will be added to all credit card payments. Debit card payments remain unchanged.

FAMILY LEARNING

The price includes a place for one adult (aged over 19) and a child.

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO SWIM Children 18 mths-4yrs

Fri 22 Apr. 10.30-11.15. 11 wks. £41.25#

SEW TOGETHER

Thurs 12 May. 16.00-17.30. 5 wks. £22.50#

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

HOW TO ALTER CLOTHES TO FIT

Fri 27 May. 9.30-12.30. 1 wk. £20.55#

INTENSIVE COURSES

HOW TO USE A SEWING MACHINE

Fri 13 May. 9.30-12.30. 2 wk. £41.30

HOW TO USE AN OVERLOCKER

Fri 17 June. 9.30-12.30. 2 wks. £41.30

BEGINNERS MACHINE EMBROIDERY

Fri 8 July. 09.30-12.30. 2 wks. £41.30

HOW TO USE A SEWING MACHINE

Mon 9 May. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £41.30#

HOW TO USE AN OVERLOCKER

Mon 6 June. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £41.30

MACHINE EMBROIDERY FOR BEGINNERS

Mon 27 June. 19.00-21.00 3 wks. £41.30

LEARNING 4 LIFE SWIM SCHOOL

With over 20 years experience of teaching local children, Learning4Life Swim School is the perfect venue for your child to learn to swim.

Spaces Available for April

Term Dates: Monday 11 April to Sunday 17 July 2016

Exc. Mon 2 May & Sat 28 May to Sun 5 June

Cost: Tue-Fri 13 wks Sat,Sun & Mon 12 wks

First Steps, Pre Beg, Beg, Improver £57.20 £52.80

Intermediates 1, 2 and 3 £49.40 £45.60

Rookie Lifesaving, Survive & Save £61.75 £57.00

We operate at different times 7 days a week

We offer the following:-

- High levels of parent satisfaction - 94% rated our swimming tuition as Very Good or Excellent.
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Tel.01384 816043. Mon to Fri. 9.30 - 13.30
studentservices@learning4life.co.uk

www.learning4life.co.uk



fast the ticket

Whole Lott of fun for Pixie

Pop star drops in for breakfast
See Page 23



Max appeal

Lisa Maxwell – Page 23



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1 MAY • LLANDUDNO VICTORIAN EXTRAVAGANZA
7 MAY • IL DIVO LIVE!
14 MAY • HAWORTH 1940s WEEKEND
27 MAY • CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW
4 JUN • BEAMISH GEORGIAN FAIR
11 JUN • QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CRUISE & WINDSOR
25 JUN • CHATSWORTH FLORABUNDANCE
9 JUL • HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW • F1 GRAND PRIX
AUG • EDINBURGH TATTOO (MANY DATES)
15 AUG • SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW

2/3 DAYS FROM **£69.95**

LLANDUDNO, SNOWDONIA & ISLE OF ANGLESEY



**2 for 1
BAR**
6pm-9pm
(TBC APPLY)

5 DAYS FROM **£179.95**
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD New Loretta Hotel
• Includes visit to Snowdonia & the Isle of Anglesey and historic Conwy
MON 16 MAY, 15, 27 JUN, 11 JUL, 1, 15 AUG

KYLE OF LOCHALSH BY TRAIN ISLE OF SKYE & STRATHSPEY STEAM



5 DAYS FROM **£259.95**
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Mackays/Garve Hotel
• Includes Scotrail train to Kyle of Lochalsh, Strathspey Steam Railway and visits to Loch Ness & Inverness
MON 30 MAY, 20 JUN, 18 JUL, 8, 22 AUG, 3 OCT

WARNER STUDIO TOUR Making of Harry Potter



2 DAYS **£119.95**
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• Admission included plus visits to Science & Natural History Museums
SAT 30 APR, 28 MAY, 11, 25 JUN, 20 AUG, 3, 24 SEP

FOLKESTONE & CROSS CHANNEL CRUISE TO OSTEND



5 DAYS FROM **£179.95**
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Burstin Hotel
• Cross Channel low duty trip to Ostend
MON 9, 16, 23, 30 MAY, 6, 13, 20, 27 JUN, 11, 18, 25 JUL

LIVERPOOL BEATLES TOUR MERSEY CRUISE & CHESTER



2 DAYS **£79.95**
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• Includes River Explorer Cruise & Beatles Tour
SAT 23 APR, 28 MAY, 18 JUN, 9, 30 JUL, 13 AUG

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2 DAYS **£99.95**
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• Includes admission to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, home of UK's only Polar Bears & The Deep Kingdom of Ice!
SAT 21 MAY, 16 JUL, 6 AUG, 3 SEP, 15 OCT

BOURNEMOUTH & GUERNSEY CRUISE



5 DAYS FROM **£199.95**
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Carrington House Hotel
• Includes fantastic day trip to Guernsey
MON 25 APR, 9, 23, 30 MAY, 6, 20, 27 JUN, 4, 11, 25 JUL

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2 DAYS **£99.95**
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• Visit the live working TV set within Harewood Estate. See Bob's Cafe, The Woolpack, the Village Church and more...
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4/5 DAYS FROM **£249.95**
3/4 NIGHTS B&B Inter Hotel, Paris Est Rosny
• Includes 2 day hopper ticket • Approx. 8 hour discovery visit in Paris (5 days only)
4 DAYS FRI 5, 12, 19, 26 AUG
5 DAYS MON 30 MAY, 1, 15 AUG, 24 OCT

TINTAGEL PADSTOW & PORT ISAAC



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4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Camelot Castle Hotel
• Includes trips to Rick Stein's Padstow & Doc Martin's Port Isaac
MON 25 APR, 9, 23 MAY, 5, 19, 26 SEP, 3, 10 OCT

TORQUAY



HALF BOARD breaks at the Rainbow/Sherwood Hotel, Torquay
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HALF BOARD breaks at the Rainbow/Sherwood Hotel, Torquay



4 DAYS FRIDAYS
22, 29 APR
20, 27 MAY
17, 24 JUN
22, 29 JUL
5, 12, 19, 26 AUG
23, 30 SEP

5 DAYS MONDAYS
25 APR
9, 16, 23, 30 MAY
6, 13, 20, 27 JUN
4, 11, 18, 25 JUL
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 AUG
5, 12, 19, 26 SEP

7 DAYS SUNDAYS
29 MAY, 19 JUN,
10, 31 JUL
7, 28 AUG
11 SEP
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Ken Dodd



Saturday, 7.30pm
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham

The legendary funnyman will be tickling the masses with his own brand of wit in the Happiness show. Expect more than five-hours of gags and music. Call 0844 871 3011.

Jeff Lynne's ELO



Saturday & Sunday,
Genting Arena

The iconic musician comes 'home' to deliver Alone in the Universe, the first new Electric Light Orchestra material in 15 years. Support comes from The Feeling Visit www.gentingarena.co.uk

Rob Beckett



Saturday,
Stafford Gatehouse, 8pm

The comedian, a regular panellist on the likes of Mock the Week and 8 out of 10 Cats, gets his teeth into a host of issues, like Kit Kats in his Mouth of the South show. Visit www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Pasha Kovalev



Sunday, Grand Theatre
Wolverhampton

The 2014 Strictly winner tours with his new show It's All About You, featuring spectacular choreography and costumes. He is joined by colleague Strictly Anya Garnis. Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

ROCK & POP

Moon Sugar
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
The Rainbow, Birmingham,
B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Three Blind Mice
Thu at 8.30pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

High Tyde
Tue at 8.30pm,
The Sunflower Lounge,
Birmingham, B5 4EG.
Call 0121 632 6756

Nerina Pallot
Tomorrow at 6pm - 10pm,
The Institute, Birmingham,
B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The King Of Pop: The Legend
Continues: Tribute
Thu at 7.30pm,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Wolfmother
Sat at 6pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

We Are Z
Thu at 7pm,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

The Mersey Beatles:
The Beatles Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm, £16.50
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock,
WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Cast
Sat at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Jeff Lynne's ELO
Sat at 7.30pm, Sun at 7.30pm,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Newton Faulkner
Sat at 6.30pm,
The Institute, Birmingham,
B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Abbanania: Tribute To Abba
Thu at 7pm, £19.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

The Spitfires
Wed at 7pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Chas & Dave
Sat at 9pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Tasita d'Mour: Tina Turner
Tribute
Thu at 9.30pm,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

NAO
Wed at 7pm,
The Institute, Birmingham,
B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Marlon Williams
Thu at 7.30pm - 11pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Treetop Flyers
Sun at 7.30pm - 11pm, £8
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

The Young 'Uns
Mon at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

BLUES, JAZZ & SOUL

The Blues Band
Sat at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Blues Club With Playing Django
Sat at 4pm - 8pm,
Hare & Hounds, King's Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Special Kinda Madness:
Specials & Madness Tribute
Sat at 7pm, £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Discharge
Sat at 6pm - 10pm,
The Rainbow, Birmingham,
B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

Solo Piano Improvisation
Tomorrow at 7.30pm - 9pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

David Franke
Wed at 7.30pm - 9.30pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Code 46
Wed at 7pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

City Of Birmingham Symphony
Orchestra: Disney Frozen In
Concert
Sat at 2pm, 6pm,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Cash: Johnny Cash Tribute
Wed at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Shalamar
Wed at 9pm,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

CBSO Centre Stage: CBSO
Cellos The Americas!
Thu at 1.10pm, £10
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

City Of Birmingham Symphony
Orchestra: Romeo And Juliet
Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

TV Smith
Tomorrow at 8.30pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

COMEDY

Rob Beckett: Mouth Of The
South
Sat at 8pm, £12 - £14
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Roy Chubby Brown
Tomorrow at 8.30pm, Sat at
7.30pm, £20 - £21
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Thursday Night Comedy
Carousel
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Gein's Family Giftshop's Trophy
Collection
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Stuart Goldsmith: An Hour
Wed at 7.30pm,
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE.
Call 01902 321321

Ken Dodd: The Happiness Show
Sat at 7pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

THEATRE

Elf The Musical: Stafford
Gatehouse Youth Theatre
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Sat at
7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Vienna Festival Ballet: Swan
Lake
Wed at 7pm,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Return To The Forbidden Planet:
Stafford Gatehouse Youth
Theatre
Wed at 7pm, Thu at 7pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Late Night Love
Thu at 7.30pm,
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE.
Call 01902 321321

Stig Of The Dump (Over 6s)
Sun at 3pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Scottish Opera & Music Theatre
Wales: The Devil Inside
Mon at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Rep, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Pasha Kovalev: It's All About
You
Sun at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Calamity Jane: Stafford & Dis-
trict Operatic Society
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm,
Thu at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Ireland's Call
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

My Friend Peter
Sun at 11.30am, 2.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Working
Thu at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Can-
nock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Dalloway
Wed at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

How To Be Happy With The
Speakmans
Thu at 8pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

End Of The Rainbow
Mon at 7.30pm, 7.30pm, Tue at
7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Music Theatre Wales: The Devil
Inside
Mon at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Rep, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Derren Brown: Miracle
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Sat at
7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Twelfth Night
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm,
7.30pm,
Birmingham Rep, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Folk
Tue at 7pm, 7.45pm, Wed at
7.45pm, Thu at 7.45pm,
Birmingham Rep, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Rumpelstiltskin: Big Brum
Theatre
Sat at 11.30am, 2pm,
Birmingham Rep, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Breakfast At Tiffany's
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at
7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birming-
ham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Mary Poppins
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Mon at
7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at
2pm, 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm,
7.30pm, £25.55 - £30.60
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

That'll Be The Day
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, £23.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

CLASSES & COURSES

Science Of Sound
Wed at 10am,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Pixie has Lott to offer in iconic role

POP princess Pixie Lott takes on the iconic role of Holly Golightly in a new touring production of Breakfast At Tiffany's.

Taking on the role made famous by the legendary Audrey Hepburn in 1961 film, the chart-topping singer will star alongside Downton Abbey actor Matt Barber, who stars as Fred. Former Bread and Goodnight Sweetheart Victor McGuire will play Joe Bell.

Making up the cast are Robert Calvert, Naomi Cranston, Charlie De Melo, Tim Frances, Andrew Joshi, Melanie La Barrie and Sevan Stephan, with Katy Allen and Andy Watkins.



Pixie Lott as Holly Golightly



Pixie Lott and Matt Barber as Fred

Enigmatic

It reaches Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre next week, April 18 to 23, as part of a UK and Ireland tour that runs from March 3 to April 30, with Lott heading up the cast. It continues from June 13 to 25.

Emily Atack and former Corrie actress and Strictly contestant Georgia May Foote are also lined up to take on the enigmatic role at some stage during the tour.

Truman Capote's classic novella, set in New York in 1943, has been adapted for the stage by Pulitzer Prize-winning finalist and Tony and Olivier Award-winning playwright Richard Greenberg and contains memorable songs from the era as well as original music by Grant Olding.

Still only 25, Lott has had three

number one albums and topped the single charts three times with Mama Do, Boys and Girls and All About Tonight. She was a successful contestant on series 10 of Strictly Come Dancing in 2014.

Director Nikolai Foster said: "It's a testament to the beauty of Capote's imagination, the extraordinary char-

acters he created and Greenberg's faithful adaptation, that alongside Pixie and Matt, we have assembled such an accomplished company of actors to bring this dazzling play to life."

Call 0844 871 3011, for groups of 10-plus call 0844 871 3031 or visit www.atgtickets.com/birmingham

Loose Woman Lisa fits The Bill as Judy

LISA Maxwell shakes off her Loose Women tag as she makes her stage acting debut as Judy Garland, hitting Wolverhampton next week.

Maxwell, a former children's TV presenter, who also represented the UK in A Song For Europe, performed alongside Russ Abbot in the early 1990s, but made her name in The Bill as DS Samantha Nixon.

She spent five years on ITV's Loose Women panel, but is now touring the UK in the West End and Broadway hit End of the Rainbow. It reaches the Grand Theatre from April 18-20 and also stars comedian Gary Wilmot and former EastEnders actor Sam Attwater.

Set in 1968, the once-glittering Judy Garland is in London to make an explosive comeback. But off stage, holed up in her hotel room, she is battling with her young new fiancé, her devoted accom-

panist, and her destructive addictions. Will she be able to conquer her demons and reclaim her crown as one of history's great musical icons?

The funny and emotionally-charged musical features some of Garland's most memorable songs including Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

Gary Wilmot will play Anthony. His own musical theatre stardom began when he played Bill Snibson in Me and My Girl at the Adelphi Theatre and has a host of theatre credits to his name.

Attwater, who plays Mickey, made his TV acting debut in 2009, playing Ricky in Hollyoaks.

Credits

The following year he joined EastEnders and its online spin-off EastEnders: E20, as Leon Small. Stage credits include Brad in the 40th anniversary tour of The Rocky Horror Show, Dreamboats and Petticoats in the West End, and the 2014 UK tour of Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. He won the sixth series of ITV's Dancing on Ice in 2011.

End of the Rainbow first premiered at the Sydney Opera House in 2005, before playing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2006. It returned to the UK in 2010, transferring to the West End for a six-month run. It received four Olivier Award nominations. A Broadway run followed in 2012.

Showtimes are 7.30pm with a 2.30pm Wednesday matinee. Call 01902 429212 or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Will she be able to conquer her demons?

Rockers Rabbit on at the Robin

COCKNEY rockers Chas n Dave will be giving it some Rabbit at the Robin 2 in Bilston this weekend.

The chirpy duo marked their 50th anniversary in showbusiness three years ago and play the Mount Pleasant venue on Saturday. Tickets are £22.50 in advance or £24.50 on the door.

Former Zombies frontman Colin Blunstone performs next week. Support on Wednesday, April 20, comes from Balsamo Deighton. Tickets are £16 in advance or £17.50 on the door, while punk legends UK Subs are in action the following night, tickets at £12 or £14.

Book at www.therobin.co.uk or on 01902 401211.

Comic duo mark 25th anniversary

COMEDY stars Reeves and Mortimer will perform in Birmingham as part of their forthcoming national tour.

The duo's live show, 25 years of Reeves and Mortimer: The Poignant Moments, plays at the Barclaycard Arena on December 9.

The show is a celebration of the first 25 years of their professional collaboration from Vic Reeves Big Night Out, through Smell of Reeves & Mortimer, Bang, Bang It's Reeves & Mortimer, Shooting Stars and House Of Fools.

For more details, or for ticket information, visit www.barclycardarena.co.uk

X Factor winner has All That Jazz

HIT musical Chicago tops the list of dazzling new productions announced at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham.

The award-winning musical Chicago will be the Christmas show at the Station Street venue. It will be staged December 12 to 31. The casting has yet to be announced.

Fans don't have to wait that long, however, as the musical is being staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from June 20-25, starring X Factor winner Sam Bailey, former EastEnders actor John Partridge and another former soap star Hayley Tamaddon. For ticket details, www.grandtheatre.co.uk

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TUESDAY 19TH APRIL
8PM START

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- Summer BBQ's
- Skittle alley hire

EVENTS

It doesn't matter what day it is, there's always something going on at the Sammy. From karaoke to pool competitions, bingo to live music, you'll find something to suit your mood.

We also hold a popular music festival a couple of times a year and plans are underway to create a Folk/Jazz club in the cellar bar (musicians get in touch!).

Here's what a typical week entails at the Samson and Lion of Stourbridge.

BAND REHEARSALS / MEETING ROOM

FUNCTION ROOM FOR HIRE

Fridays
Karaoke unless function prohibits.

Saturdays
Bonus Ball Pay-out and many functions.

Sundays
Meat Raffle - Drawn at 1 pm. £1 per strip for a chance of 3 or more prizes. Free bar snacks.

With homemade food and a wide selection of beers, ciders, wines and spirits on offer, every night offers something different.

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23rd April

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Saturday 14th May 2016 at 2.30 pm

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Lots of Fun - Lots of Singing - Performed on more than 20 different musical instruments.

All in an afternoon with tea and biscuits.

You must come and see.

CHOICE



Michael McIntyre
Michael McIntyre's Big Show (BBC1, 7pm)
New series. The lively comedian hosts an evening of entertainment, recorded in front of an audience assembled at London's Theatre Royal on Drury Lane. Each week, Michael introduces sets by his fellow stand-ups, musical performances, dance revues and various other hijinks. He begins by inviting R&B star Tinie Tempah to perform, and the Peres Brothers Group put on a dazzling acrobatic show. The host also hijacks former Spice Girl Geri Horner's mobile phone in Celebrity Send To All, which sees him fire of an embassassing message to all the contacts in her directory, and one unsuspecting member of the public is given a chance to sing a special duet with Michael Ball.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** MasterChef. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day one at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.25** Can't Touch This. **6.15** **Pointless Celebrities.** Brix Smith-Start, Jonathan Phang, Amy Childs, Sam Faiers, Grace Woodward, Brendan Courtney, Lee Stafford and Nicky Clark all take part in the unorthodox quiz show. **7.00** **Michael McIntyre's Big Show.** New series. The comedian hosts an evening of entertainment at London's Theatre Royal, beginning with music by Tinie Tempah and acrobatics by the Peres Brothers Group. **7.55** **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** A former soldier and his wife team up to answer a selection of questions in the hope of winning life-changing prizes from their personal wish list. Shane Richie hosts. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, with Kate Garraway. **8.45** **Casualty.** Rita receives the surprise of her life and struggles to control her emotions when a face from her past arrives at the ED. Medical drama, starring Chloe Howman. **9.35** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes and the Brown family await the fruits of their fraud after faking Grandad's death to get a payout, but the insurance company starts to grow suspicious. (R) **10.05** BBC News; Weather. **10.25** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Norwich City v Sunderland at Carrow Road and Chelsea v Manchester City at Stamford Bridge; National Lottery Update. **11.45** **Live at the Apollo.** Leading performers on the stand-up circuit share their light-hearted views on modern life in this show recorded before a packed house at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R) **12.20** Snooker: World Championship Extra. **3.20** Snooker Classic Matches. **5.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **5.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 **Film:** The Magic Box. (1951) **8.10** Natural World. (R) **9.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. (R) **1.00** **Film:** Lust for Life. (1956) Biopic of Van Gogh, starring Kirk Douglas. **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day one at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **5.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **6.00** **Bake Off: Creme de la Creme.** Chef Tom Kerridge hosts the search for Britain's best team of pastry chefs. Joining him at one of the country's grandest stately homes are 15 teams of pastry chefs, all wanting to prove that they are the "crème de la crème". (R) **7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** The concluding session on the opening day at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first-round match featuring Stuart Bingham reaches a conclusion. **8.00** **Grand Tours of Scotland.** Paul Merton paddles a replica of a Rob Roy canoe from the 1890s along now-dissused steamer routes, going from loch to loch in Argyll before heading out to Islay. **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring and the platoon dress as firemen to take part in an initiative exercise, but soon find themselves tackling a real fire. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R) **9.00** **Tom Jones' 1950s: The Decade That Made Me.** Tom Jones recalls his formative years in South Wales, in the first of four retrospective documentaries in which celebrated musicians look back at the decades that defined them. **10.00** **Shirley.** Biopic of Shirley Bassey, charting the singer's early career, from her roots in 1930s Cardiff to the start of her rise to stardom in the 1960s. Ruth Negga (Misfits) stars. (R) **11.10** **Snooker: The World Championship.** Jason Mohammad presents highlights of the evening session on the opening day at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **12.00** **Film:** First Snow. (2006) **1.35** **Film:** Freestyle. (2010) **2.55** This Is BBC Two. **5.30** Great British Garden Revival. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.15** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.29** Regional Programme. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** **Film:** Superman. (1978) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve. **4.25** The Wine Show. **5.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather. **6.00** **You've Been Framed! Goes Wild.** Harry Hill presents a selection of the wildest clips submitted to the show, including a video that demonstrates why breaking wind while taking a selfie is a bad idea. **7.00** **Bang on the Money.** New series. Rickie Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odom host the show in which two teams of friends aim to hit a target number in a series of physical and mental challenges. **8.00** **Britain's Got Talent.** The nationwide talent contest continues as Ant and Dec go behind-the-scenes at the second round of auditions to meet some of this year's hopeful entertainers. As ever, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams take their seats on the judges' panel to rate the performances. Plus, both the Georgie hosts and all four judges have access to a Golden Buzzer, which they can use to send any entrant they believe has that extra something special straight through to the live semi-finals. **9.20** **Play to the Whistle.** New series. Holly Willoughby returns with the sports-themed comedy panel show, as Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh are joined by Richard Osman, Tom Daley and Rob Beckett. **10.05** ITV News; Weather. **10.20** **Film: 2 Fast 2 Furious.** (2003) A disgraced cop is given a chance to redeem himself by going undercover to bring a drug trafficker to justice. Thriller sequel, with Paul Walker. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** Freeride World Tour. **7.05** The Grid. **7.30** MSA British Rally Championship. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.30** Formula 1: Chinese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ayr and Newbury. **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **5.30** Homes by the Sea. **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Film: Enders Game.** (2013) Premiere. In the future, the human race has survived conflict with an alien race, but the prospect of war breaking out again is a constant threat. A gifted boy is selected as a potential military commander for the coming conflict, and subjected to a gruelling training program to prove his worth. Sci-fi adventure based on Orson Scott Card's novel, starring Asa Butterfield, Harrison Ford and Ben Kingsley. **9.15** **Film: Die Hard 2.** (1990) Tough cop John McClane arrives at an airport to pick up his wife, but finds himself plunged into a bloody life-or-death struggle. He must battle terrorists who have seized control of the terminal as part of a campaign to secure the release of a convicted drug baron. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia, William Sadler, Franco Nero and William Atherton. **11.40** **Jimmy Carr: Laughing & Joking.** Stand-up comedy with the host of 8 Out of 10 Cats, recorded at London's Hammersmith Apollo in November last year, featuring his familiar brand of near-the-knuckle humour. (R) **12.35** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. The chef helps the owners of Jack's Waterfront, Michigan. (R) **1.30** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Trevor demands Ste and Harry start paying their way. Nico worries Sienna has remembered everything, and Louis books a romantic getaway. (R) **3.40** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. Flower arranging at the Royal Cornwall Show. (R) **4.00** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. Three homeowners in Luton compete to sell their homes. **4.55** Location, Location, Location. Two couples in Gloucestershire search for properties to reflect their new lifestyles. (R) **5.50** The King of Queens. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **12.25** Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.25** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **2.25** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **3.20** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.10** **NCIS: Los Angeles.** A rocket engine expert is killed, leaving Eric to go undercover to ensure that classified technology remains secure. **7.05** **NCIS: New Orleans.** A man is killed during a city-wide blackout, and the team suspects his death is connected to the activities of opportunist thieves using the power cut as cover for a looting spree. **8.00** **NCIS: DiNozzo.** Bishop and her husband investigate a terrorist threat while they are stuck at Washington Dulles airport during bad weather at Thanksgiving weekend. **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches from the Championship, including Birmingham City v Burnley at St Andrew's and Sheffield Wednesday v Ipswich Town at Hillsborough. Plus, a round-up of all the goals, the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers. **10.00** **Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of the latest matches in League One and League Two, including Burton Albion v Barnsley, and Accrington Stanley v Morecambe. **10.30** **NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** Part two of two. Gibbs continues to blame himself for Kate's death, and enlists Jenny's help to track down Art - but they are nearly killed in a shoot-out. (R) **11.25** **NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** The entombed body of a Marine sergeant is found, with evidence indicating he was buried alive. Meanwhile, Ziva David returns to replace Kate. (R) **12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 A History of Ancient Britain **8.00** Human Planet **9.30** Follow the Money **11.00** Dusty Springfield at the BBC **12.00** Definitely Dusty **1.00** Queens of Soul **2.00** Classic Soul at the BBC **3.00** Dusty Springfield at the BBC **4.00** Close
ITV4
11.00 Britain's Got Talent **12.25** Britain's Got More Talent **1.30** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **2.30** Scorpion **3.30** Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **4.35** FYI Daily **4.40** Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **5.40** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **7.30** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **8.30** FYI Daily **8.35** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.25** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.40** American Dad! **1.35** The Cleveland Show **2.25** @elevenish **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
1.55 Inspector Morse **6.20** Film: Columbus Lady in Waiting (1971) **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Blue Murder **1.30** Doctor at Large **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.20** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.45 Film: The Far Country (1954) **12.45** Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55** Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **3.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights **4.00** Film: Goldfinger (1964) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: Goldfinger (1964) **6.20** The Boxing Mavericks **7.20** The Big Fish Off **8.20** Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.25** FYI Daily **9.30** Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **10.00** Film: Out for Justice (1991) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10** Film: Out for Justice (1991) **11.55** Film: The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) **1.00** FYI Daily **1.05** Film: The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
1.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Goldbergs **4.00** Film: Bride Wars (2009) **5.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.00** The Big Bang Theory (2010) **11.10** Gogglebox **12.50** Rude Tube **1.55** The IT Crowd **2.50** How I Met Your Mother **3.35** Gogglebox
Film4
1.00 Cleaveless (1995) **3.00** A Monster in Paris (2011) **4.45** Imagine That (2009) **6.55** One Day (2011) **9.00** Faster (2010) **10.55** Fright Night (1985) **1.05** Nosferatu the Vampire (1979) **3.20** Close

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CHOICE



Paul McCartney with Downton Abbey's Jim Carter

Jim Carter: Lonnie Donegan And Me (ITV, 10.20pm)
The Downton Abbey star examines the influence of the 1950s singer, who released six number one singles at the height of the skiffle craze and was cited by John Lennon and Paul McCartney as a major influence in writing their own songs. Carter remembers how he saw the singer perform at a seaside variety show when he was 11, and discovers the origins of skiffle music, revealing how Donegan was introduced to American folk music during national service. Featuring 1950s archive footage and interviews with some of the acclaimed musicians who were inspired by Donegan's music.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.15 Flog It! (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Points of View. 4.15 Lifeline. 4.25 Songs of Praise. 5.00 Life in the Air.
6.00 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army and Me. Paul goes to Athens to assist with the migrant crisis. He also meets the leader of the charity and poses some hard questions, and helps a woman struggling to feed her children.
6.30 BBC News.
7.00 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. Joe Crowley and Anita Rani visit Dumfries and Galloway. Joe meets a cattle farmer trying to restore the popularity of a famous local breed, while Anita joins a photographer looking for wildlife at night and meets a group of volunteers planting trees in the mountains. Sean Fletcher helps out with restoration work at a medieval building in the Peak District, Adam Henson meets another nominee for Countryfile's Farming Hero, and Tom Heap investigates whether 2016 will be a hard year for farmers. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team values more rarities at Hanbury Hall, Droitwich. Items featured include a jacket designed by Peter Blake, a nude painting and a sketch of Napoleon on his deathbed.
9.00 Undercover. Maya resumes her legal struggle with the US authorities, leading to a revelation that rocks her marriage to the core. Nick is confronted with a ghost from his past.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action.
11.40 Room 101 - Extra Storage. Extended version in which Frank Skinner invites Strictly head judge Len Goodman, actress and impressionist Romni Ancora and quick-witted comic Tim Vine to discuss their pet hates. (R)
12.20 Snooker: World Championship Extra. 3.20 Snooker Classic Matches. 4.20 Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.30 This Farming Life. (R) 7.30 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.00 An Island Parish. (R) 8.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 9.00 Countryfile. (R) 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 12.15 MOTD Extra. 1.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Coverage of the second session on the second day.
6.00 Jungle Animal Hospital: Natural World. The work of dedicated staff at an animal hospital in Guatemala, whose wards are full of exotic patients, many of them orphans rescued from the illegal pet trade. The film follows the team in their busiest year yet as they nurse the animals back to health, select a troop of spider monkeys for release and prepare a flock of precious scarlet macaws for freedom. (R)
7.00 Jumbo: The Plane That Changed the World. Documentary examining the origins and development of the Boeing 747, which was the world's first wide-bodied commercial airliner and revolutionised air travel after coming into service in 1970. In interviews filmed on the original prototype, chief engineer Joe Sutter and his team describe the challenges they faced, from exploding engines to vibrations that threatened to tear the aircraft apart, and test pilot Brian Wygle reveals how on the first flight they hooked up car batteries as back-ups in case of engine failure. (R)
8.00 Natural Born Winners. The athletes move on to India, where they are introduced to Kalaripayattu, a fighting style with a range of acrobatic moves and weapons that is considered the root of martial arts.
9.00 Horizon: Should We Close Our Zoos? Liz Bonnin reports on issues concerning zoos, exploring their role in preserving endangered species.
10.00 Film: The Spectacular Now. (2013) Premiere. A teenage loner bonds with a drunken classmate who helps her create a new persona for herself to boost her confidence. Drama, starring Miles Teller and Shailene Woodley.
11.30 Snooker: The World Championship.
12.20 The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. (R) 1.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.05 Holby City. (R) 3.00 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. 6.15 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.05 Sooty. (R) 7.15 Super 4. (R) 7.30 Needs & Monsters. (R) 7.45 The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) 8.00 Teen Titans Go! (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.30 River Monsters. (R) 2.35 Big Star's Little Star. (R) 3.35 Britain's Got Talent. (R) 5.00 Tipping Point. (R)
6.00 All Star Family Fortunes. Opera singer Paul Potts and former MP Ann Widdecombe team up with their families in an attempt to win money for charity. Game show, hosted by Vernon Kay. (R)
6.35 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.45 ITV News: Weather.
7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special. Shane Williams, Sian Khan, Milton Jones and Tanni Grey-Thompson work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity.
8.00 The Durrells. Margo takes pride in her new job, but soon discovers where her greatest talent lies. Gerry and Leslie's social lives leave Louise wondering if she made a mistake coming to Corfu.
9.00 Home Fires. The Czech officers organise a dance to keep morale up as the Battle of Britain intensifies. Joyce has some advice for Sarah which is not well-received, while Pat realises that somebody knows about her relationship with Marek. Allison's secret work for the police leaves her forced to decide where her loyalties lie. Steph fears that Stan is becoming a bad influence on his son, and Frances finds out that Peter's affair was more complicated than she thought.
10.05 ITV News: Weather.
10.20 Jim Carter: Lonnie Donegan And Me. The Downton Abbey star examines the influence of the 1950s singer on pop music. He discovers the origins of skiffle music and recalls his own experiences of seeing Donegan perform.
11.25 Premiership Rugby Union. 12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 British Superbike Championship Highlights.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 1.30 Formula 1: Chinese Grand Prix Highlights. 3.30 Location, Location, Location. (R) 4.30 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. 5.30 Channel 4 News.
6.00 Grand Designs: Living in the Country. Kevin McCloud looks at the challenges of self-building in the countryside, where design must embrace and enhance tradition, yet often overcome stringent planning constraints. Drawing on footage from the show's 15-year history, as well as new visits to extraordinary homes, he finds out how pioneers at the forefront of architecture are transforming agricultural and historic buildings, and bringing cutting-edge contemporary design to rural parts. (R)
7.00 The Fearless Chef. New series. Chef and restaurateur Kiran Jethwa goes on a culinary world tour, tracing ingredients to their source and preparing meals in unusual locations. His travels begin in Bolivia, where he goes in search of coca leaves, which can be used as a herb in tea and cooking. He meets some local farmers and harvests the leaves on sheer valley slopes, before using his crop to make a marinade for llama meat.
8.00 Hidden Britain by Drone. Part two of two. Tony Robinson presents aerial footage of a shipyard where aircraft carriers are built and a shipwreck on the Kent coast that is filled with explosives.
9.00 Indian Summers. Aafin tries to prevent a bombing during Simla's silver jubilee celebrations without exposing his own secrets, but by enlisting Sook's help, he places her life in danger.
10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.05 Film: Mud. (2012) Premiere. Two boys find a fugitive hiding out on an island on the Mississippi and help reunite him with his lost love. Drama, starring Matthew McConaughey.
1.05 Embarrassing Bodies Down Under. (R) 1.55 Come Dine with Me. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.35 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.45 Ticky Toc. (R) 6.55 Zack and Quack. (R) 7.10 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.15 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.30 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.45 Little Princess. (R) 7.55 Pip Ahoy! (R) 8.05 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.35 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.50 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 9.05 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.20 Jelly Jam. (R) 9.35 LazyTown. (R) 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.40 The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) 11.40 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) 12.15 The Gadget Show. (R) 1.15 Film: The Princess Bride. (1987) Comic fantasy adventure, starring Cary Elwes. 3.15 Film: Bend It Like Beckham. (2002) Comedy, starring Parminder Nagra and Keira Knightley. 5.30 Film: Hercules. (1997) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Tate Donovan.
7.10 New Talent's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring laugh-out-loud unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world.
8.00 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. An award-winning magician performs one of his favourite routines, the president of the Yale University Magic Club asks Jonathan Ross to assist with a card trick, and an Australian illusionist tries to dazzle Penn and Teller. The duo conclude the show with their own take on pulling a rabbit out of a hat.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Film: Going the Distance. (2010) Premiere. A woman from San Francisco falls in love with a man she meets while spending a summer in New York. When the time comes for her to return home, they decide to try to keep their relationship going, despite being on opposite sides of America. However, their friends become convinced their efforts are doomed to failure. Romantic comedy, starring Drew Barrymore.
11.05 Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) The inhabitants of Earth scramble to repel an invasion by a seemingly invincible Martian army. Tim Burton's sci-fi comedy, starring Jack Nicholson.
1.05 SuperCasino. 3.10 The Tube: Going Underground. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.50 Great Artists. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Trad Jazz Britannia **8.00** Film: Rock Around the Clock (1956) **9.15** Rock 'n' Roll America **12.15** Natural World: Tiger Island **1.15** Rich Hall's California Stars **2.45** Jerusalem: The Making of a Holy City **3.45** Close
ITV2
12.00 Take Me Out **1.10** Catchphrase **1.55** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **2.55** FYI Daily **3.00** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **3.45** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **5.35** Britain's Got Talent **7.00** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00** Film: After Earth (2013) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: After Earth (2013) **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** The Hot Desk: Real East **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.30 Film: Columbo: Lady in Waiting (1971) **1.10** Film: Black Beauty (1994) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15** Film: Black Beauty (1994) **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Midsomer Murders **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** The Cruise Ship **8.30** Royal Stories **9.00** Great Estates of Scotland **10.10** Film: The Queen (2006) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15** Film: The Queen (2006) **12.20** Inspector Morse **2.20** Wycliffe **3.15** May the Best House Win **4.55** On the Buses **5.20** Judge Judy **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
6.15 Football's Greatest: George Best **6.30** Pawn Stars **6.55** The Wine Show **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Ransom (1996) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Ransom (1996) **11.25** Film: How I Spent My Summer Vacation (2012) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35** Film: How I Spent My Summer Vacation (2012) **1.20** Hell on Wheels **2.20** Storage Wars: New York **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Made in Chelsea **1.30** Couples Come Dine with Me **2.30** The Goldbergs **3.55** Film: Dear John (2010) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** The IT Crowd **12.05** The Aliens **1.10** The 100 **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.55** Tattoo Fixers **3.50** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 Escape from the Planet of the Apes (1971) **1.00** Brewster's Millions (1985) **3.05** City of Ember (2008) **4.55** Marley and Me (2008) **7.10** Legend (1985) **9.00** Now You See Me (2013) **11.15** Friday the 13th (2009) **1.10** Room 237 (2012)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Dangerous Company, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A businesswoman worries she has dementia after becoming forgetful – but something more sinister is at play. Thriller, starring Alicia Leigh Willis. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2015)

TUESDAY

Secrets of Eden, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A detective investigates the deaths of a couple, and becomes convinced the local pastor may be implicated in the tragedy. Drama, starring John Stamos and Anna Gunn. (2012)

WEDNESDAY

Along Came Polly, ITV, 10.45pm

An obsessively cautious man, whose wife left him on their honeymoon, crosses paths with a wildly spontaneous former classmate who throws his well-ordered routine into disarray. Yet in spite of their different outlooks on life, he starts to fall for her. Romantic comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston and Philip Seymour Hoffman. (2004)



GoldenEye, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY

The Husband She Met Online, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman turns to the internet for romance after breaking up with her unfaithful boyfriend. She thinks she has found the perfect man in the wealthy, charming head of a real-estate company, but soon comes to realise he has an obsessive nature and intends to take control of her life. Thriller, starring Meredith Monroe and Jason Gray-Stanford. (2013)

FRIDAY

The Good Mother, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A troubled teenager is taken in by a kind family, but suspects the mother has murdered her daughter and intends to kill again. Thriller, with Helen Slater. (2013)

GoldenEye, ITV, 10.40pm

James Bond heads for Russia to investigate the connection between the theft of an experimental helicopter and an orbital satellite weapon with the power to devastate entire cities. He discovers both have fallen into the hands of a criminal mastermind. Spy adventure, with Pierce Brosnan. (1995)

An unwelcome surprise is in store for Murray

Ben Miller has been giving his old comedy partner Alexander Armstrong a run for his money in the ubiquity stakes recently.

In February, the former Death in Paradise star returned to his scientific roots (he abandoned a PhD in solid state physics at Cambridge University to concentrate on comedy) by presenting the ITV series It's Not Rocket Science.

And now he's back on the BBC with the new sitcom I Want My Wife Back, which could probably also be counted as a return to familiar ground.

The sitcom is written and produced by Mark Russell and Justin Sresni, who previously collaborated with Ben on another comedy with a seemingly self-explanatory title, The Worst Week of My Life.

The first series, which aired in 2004, followed publishing executive Howard Steel during the run-up to his wedding, when he found himself plagued by everything from an obsessive ex to a hospitalised grandmother. It was followed by a

second series and festive special, entitled (wait for it) The Worst Christmas of My Life.

However, as you may have already deduced, I Want My Wife Back follows a man whose main concern isn't making it to the church on time but staying out of the divorce court.

Ben stars as Murray, a seemingly happily married man who in this opening episode is in busy arranging a surprise 40th birthday party for his beloved wife Bex (Doc Martin's Caroline Catz, who knows a thing or two about playing long-suffering other halves). But it turns out that he's the one in for a shock when he hears that she's planning to leave him. He desperately tries to find her before the party, and is devastated when she confirms that she really is going.

So, naturally he tries to cancel the bash, only to find it's too late. As the guests begin to arrive, a shell-shocked Murray and Bex struggle to put on a brave face, and things get even worse when someone springs

another very awkward birthday surprise.

Murray's heartbreak may not initially sound all that hilarious, but events will become increasingly farcical. Future episodes will see Murray try to find out exactly why Bex has left him and what he can do to win her back, and his friends, family and colleagues are only too ready to offer their well-meaning, if not always helpful, advice.

And while Murray may be struggling, Ben is definitely having a good time. He says: "I feel incredibly lucky to be back in the BBC comedy fold, playing the incredibly unlucky hero of I Want My Wife Back. With Mainstreet at the helm and Mark Russell and Justin Sresni on script, this truly feels like a match made in heaven."

Commissioning editor Chris Sussman adds: "It's a very modern farce with a great cast, and I can't wait to see it on TV. The writers do a brilliant job of putting Ben Miller down a hole and then watching him painfully trying to crawl his way out..."



Ben Miller stars in I Want My Wife Back, Monday, BBC1, 9.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The Hairy Bikers' Pubs That Built Britain BBC2, 6.30pm

Si King and Dave Myers are setting out on a pub crawl with a difference in this new series. Instead of just propping up bars around the country, they'll be unearthing hundreds of years of fascinating history hidden in Britain's public houses, beginning in Yorkshire. They visit an establishment believed to have been drunk dry by troops the night before the Battle of Marston Moor during the English Civil War, while in York they learn about a pub that once doubled as a hospital and has a gruesome history.

TUESDAY

Fierce

ITV, 8pm

He's become a famous face thanks to his BBC shows, but Steve Backshall is journeying to 'the other side' for this six-part new series. In the past, Backshall has proved himself to be a fearless adventurer, somebody who will stop at nothing to explore weird and wonderful wildernesses while getting up close and personal with a variety of creatures. He does the same here – and dices with the death in the process. As the title suggests, the idea is for him to showcase the world's most vicious animals - by meeting them face-to-face. Among the

highlights will be Backshall's efforts to track down the endangered giant river otter, as well as encounters with the giant black caiman, komodo dragons and the fearless honey badger.

WEDNESDAY

Tonight at the London Palladium ITV, 8pm

It may be one of the oldest formats on TV – Sunday Night at the London Palladium was first shown on ITV way back in 1955 – but it has undergone some changes over the years. In fact, it's even changed since its 2014 revival – the show has now moved to Thursdays, and instead of having a new presenter every week, it's been placed in the capable hands of Bradley Walsh. He brings his old-school light entertainment charm to this week's edition, which sees Cyndi Lauper and the cast of the musical Kinky Boots taking to the stage alongside Diversity, Ronan Keating, Troupe Diabolo, and The Royal British Legion Band and Corps of Drums Romford. If that wasn't eclectic enough, there's also comedy from Seann Walsh.

THURSDAY

Nature's Perfect Partners: Natural World BBC2, 8pm

Bill Bailey narrates this natural history documentary telling the story of some of nature's most extraordinary partnerships, revealing what sometimes happens when animals need an itch scratching, help getting into food or home security assistance. The answer is, to find a partner – and not necessarily one of the same species. Highlights include hippos joining forces with fish for a full-body exfoliation and ravens inviting wolverines over for some bone-crunching assistance with their dinner.

FRIDAY

Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant ITV, 8pm

New series. The broadcaster returns to travel more of Britain's canal network,

exploring the extraordinary stories of the people and places on the way. The series starts with John navigating the Peak Forest Canal, which runs through stunning countryside from Buxworth in Derbyshire to Ashton-under-Lyne. Along the way, in Hyde he meets former boxer Ricky Hutton, who discusses his plans to revitalise the area and offer new opportunities to local youngsters, and joins a team of junior archaeologists at Mellor Mill, who are attempting to unearth the remains of what was once one of the world's largest mills.

Flying Scotsman with Robson Green ITV, 9pm

The actor tells the story of the world's most famous steam locomotive, joining the team of craftsman responsible for its restoration and revealing the astonishing story behind its rebirth. Last year, the engine was lying in pieces in a workshop just outside Manchester where a team of engineers used traditional skills to restore the icon to its former glory. Not only will Robson tell the story of its restoration from the hub of the workshop, the Grantchester star also gets involved in the rebuild, meets the men and women responsible for it, and is present to witness the milestones in its reconstruction. And if he's lucky he might even get to fulfil a boyhood dream and ride on its footplate.

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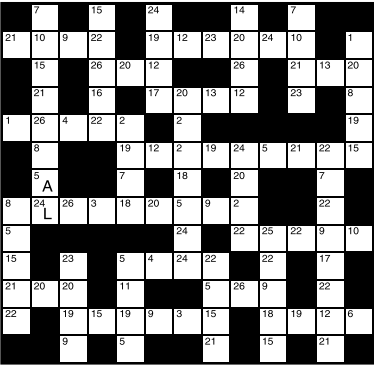
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BRAIN GYM No.373

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

T	A	F	C	P	U	K	J	Y	W	N	V	S
I	R	Q	E	M	D	O	G	Z	B	L	H	X

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

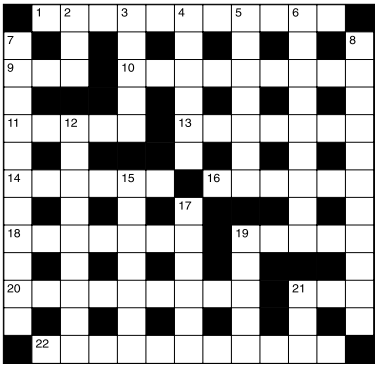
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. It's not only cattle traders who deal here (5-6)
- 9. Tombstone inscription will produce a tear! (3)
- 10. Likely to cause ill-feeling (9)
- 11. Shows deficiencies - in need of tightening up, we hear (5)
- 13. What the referee needs when it comes to blows! (7)
- 14. Discovers how low noises are (6)
- 16. A wheel cover, we hear, is something that people can put on themselves (6)
- 18. Chemical charge after dark, by the sound of it (7)
- 19. Settle and make a fire (5)
- 20. He notes the proceedings minute by minute (9)
- 21. In the freight a residual coal product (3)
- 22. Suffering from cardiac arteriosclerosis? (4-7)

Down

- 2. It whirls round the summit (3)
- 3. Irons a suit (5)
- 4. Red Indian doctor getting the bird! (6)
- 5. For the practical man art lies in ruins (7)
- 6. Providing a certain name is giving one a claim (9)
- 7. Absence of works of creative imagination will show naivety (11)
- 8. Classify crossword compilers as experts in letter arrangements! (4-7)
- 12. Shellfish could act as cure (9)
- 15. The road to the cemetery, maybe! (4-3)
- 17. Just the word to open with (6)
- 19. A bed to propagate shoots (5)
- 21. It's used by the driver for ball bearing (3)



Quick Clues:

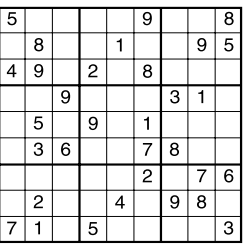
Across

- 1. Own (11)
- 9. Place (3)
- 10. Watchfulness (9)
- 11. Happen again (5)
- 13. Attire (7)
- 14. Chastise (6)
- 16. Thrashed (6)
- 18. Fancy (7)
- 19. Military student (5)
- 20. Fruit (9)
- 21. Brown (3)
- 22. Handed down as custom (11)

Down

- 2. Sever (3)
- 3. At no time (5)
- 4. Native American tent (6)
- 5. Outshine (7)
- 6. Produced (9)
- 7. Suitable (11)
- 8. High boots (11)
- 12. Receptacle (9)
- 15. Clergyman's salary (7)
- 17. Cease (6)
- 19. Creed (5)
- 21. Beverage (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	9	5	7	3	2	4	6	8
3	2	8	1	6	4	7	5	9
7	6	4	9	5	8	1	2	3
8	4	6	2	7	1	3	9	5
5	7	1	8	9	3	6	4	2
9	3	2	5	4	6	8	1	7
6	8	9	4	2	7	5	3	1
4	5	7	3	1	9	2	8	6
2	1	3	6	8	5	9	7	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Robs; 3 Encamped; 9 Learner; 10 Trade; 11 Gooseberries; 13 Onsets; 15 Thrush; 17 Dark thoughts; 20 Aspen; 21 Inhuman; 22 Finished; 23 Trot. Down: 1 Religion; 2 Bravo; 4 Nurses; 5 Afterthought; 6 Plateau; 7 Duet; 8 Undertakings; 12 Chestnut; 14 Sharpen; 16 Thrive; 18 Homer; 19 Calif. QUICK - Across: 1 Such; 3 Astonish; 9 Amateur; 10 Comic; 11 Discomposure; 13 Recess; 15 Cohere; 17 Overstrained; 20 Again; 21 Collide; 22 Skeleton; 23 News. Down: 1 Standard; 2 Grass; 4 Scrape; 5 Occasionally; 6 Immerse; 7 Hack; 8 Remonstrance; 12 Headless; 14 Caviare; 16 Stucco; 18 Noise; 19 Pass.

Quiz

- 1. Which international cricket team has been captained by Kepler Wessels?
- 2. What do the letters HRT stand for?
- 3. Which country is called Hanguk in its native language?
- 4. What is the Severn bore?
- 5. For what is the Spanish city Jerez de la Frontera famous?
- 6. What is the title of the Marquess of Blandford's father?
- 7. In which year was the Thames barrier completed?
- 8. What is the common name of the fruit Citrus reticulata?
- 9. How is author Samuel Langhorne Clemens better known?
- 10. Which king had to deal with the Peasants Revolt of 1381?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Jupiter; 2 Northern Lights; 3 Dinah

Sheridan; 4 Diphtheria; 5 Iron; 6 Zaire;

7 Bronze Age; 8 Seve Ballesteros; 9 The

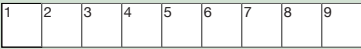
Raven; 10 Edinburgh.

Niner: RELOADING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

3856145 gives a seaman,
794567 gives a churchman,
521145 gives an athlete.



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Express & Star

Serving up taste of Spain

New restaurant owner Imran Iqbal has that extra helping of enthusiasm and it is paying off, as MARK SHIPP finds out

TAKE an empty shop unit, add a touch of ambition, sprinkle in some themed decor and mix together with genuine Spanish fare.

Top it all off with a chef from Barcelona and you have a taste of Spain in one small corner of Walsall.

It might be one 'el' of a gamble but owner Imran Iqbal believes it is one worth taking.

For many years, Imran has set his sights on opening a Spanish-themed restaurant and has this year finally seen his vision realised.

Extensive research in his home town led Imran to believe such a concept was needed. He and business partner Azhar Nawaz visited Spain to learn about its culture, its food and its influences, and, after deciding it would be a success, even recruited chef Asad.

He's from Barcelona.

And he has 14 years experience working for a five-star hotel in the Catalanian city.

Flamenco

The venue in Goodall Street, a former bar, was not Imran's first choice, but this hidden gem is well-worth seeking out.

It is tastefully decorated to give it an authentic Spanish feel – and all Imran's own work. In fact, we half expected to be serenaded by a woman in flamenco dress playing the castanets.

The menu offers a range of tapas dishes, as well as pizza and salads, pasta, paella and risotto, even steaks and burgers and has an added desi fusion.

We chose a starter, ensalade feta tomate – that's tomato and feta salad, which we shared, but left it until our mains as the perfect accompaniment. Our mains choices were canelloni



Empty shop unit transformed to bring a taste of Spain to one small corner of Walsall



Spanish theme throughout the tastefully-decorated interior

rossini for the better half and risotto de pollo for myself, topped with parmesan cheese, succulently creamy and with a not-too-overpowering hint of pepper.

Arriba means fast in Spanish so the name Ba Ba Reebea was chosen as a play on words to associate with quick service. It was not rapid, we discovered, but the best things come to those who wait in my book, so that was not a problem.

What's more, we were equipped with a de-

vice that could order drinks or call the staff from the comfort of our own table. Unfortunately, that does not include alcohol, though unique 'halal' non-alcoholic wines are served.

Despite demolishing my own dessert, the delicious crema catalana, I spent most of the time drooling over my other half's crepes, which came with ice cream and drizzled in strawberry sauce, so both of those come highly recommended. The former is akin to creme brulee with a hard sticky piece of cara-

mel in the middle. Gorgeous. Ba Ba Reebea is not guaranteed to take off, but it deserves to, particularly if passion was any guarantee of success, as Imran has that in abundance and is determined to make it work. The food is a good start as it was delightful.

I agree there is a need for such a restaurant locally. However, the lack of alcohol could prove to be a stumbling block.

A drop of sangria certainly wouldn't go amiss with a bowl of paella or risotto, but that

shouldn't put people off either, so it remains to be seen what others make of it. Early feedback is certainly promising with many positive remarks on online review pages.

Ba Ba Reebea caters for 50 diners. It is open for lunch from noon to 2pm and from 5-11pm Sunday to Thursday, on Friday from 5pm to midnight on Friday and on Saturday from noon to 2pm and 5pm to midnight.

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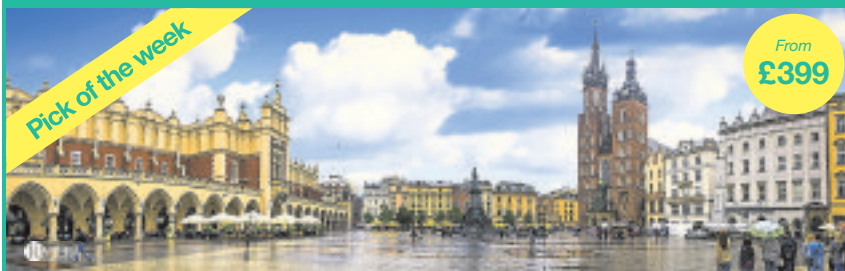


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The city houses over 6,000 historic buildings and monuments, 18 museums, 2.5 million works of art and over 140 churches - in fact its historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

During the walking tour see the amazing Rynek, the main square, lined with exquisite medieval buildings. The Cloth Hall in the centre was originally used for textile trading, today it is full of small stalls selling locally-made amber jewellery and an art gallery.

There will be a host of other sights to take in on the tour too, including St Mary's church, the Florian Gate, the University and Collegium.

A visit is made to the Wawel Castle District, which was the political and cultural capital of Poland for over 500 years. See the cathedral, tour the Palace and Royal chambers and explore the rest of the complex including the three-tiered Renaissance courtyard.

The guided tour of Auschwitz, nearby Birkenau and the notorious watchtower will be extremely moving, and therefore this excursion although included, is not compulsory.

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DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: Various dates



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DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: June 18



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DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: November 13



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DAYS: 3 DEPARTS: September 29



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DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: May 27



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DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: Aug 12, Sept 2



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DAYS: 6 DEPARTS: Various dates



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DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: Various dates



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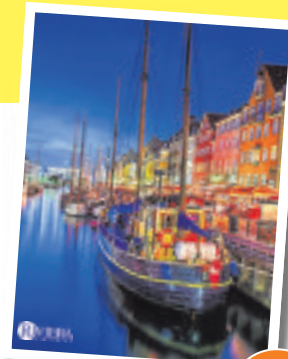
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DAYS: 6 DEPARTS: Selected dates June to September 2016



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Detached house has no chain and reduced price

A DETACHED house just off Birmingham New Road in Harvington Road, Coseley, is ideally positioned for commuting.

It is for sale through Wakeman at a reduced price of £159,950 with no chain.

With gas central heating and double glazing, the redecorated accommodation includes an entrance hall, a lounge with fireplace, a kitchen with a gas cooker and store/pantry, an extended dining room with gas fire, a vestibule/utility with a separate WC. Two of the three bedrooms have free-standing wardrobes. The bathroom includes a bath with a shower and shower screen.

There is a garage, driveway and gardens. Contact Wakeman on 01902 885894 or visit www.wakeman-online.com website.



Loft conversion ideal for growing family



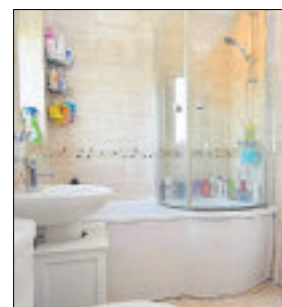
THIS four-bedroom semi in Beach Avenue, Woodcross, Bilston, has undergone improvements.

It has a loft conversion making it ideally suited for a growing family and is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £145,000.

The property has an enclosed, well-established garden to rear. There is a lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, inner lobby area and utility room. On the first floor are three generously-sized bedrooms and fitted family bathroom with 'P' shaped bath, whilst the loft conversion includes useful storage in the eaves and a dressing area.

There is central heating with a recently fitted boiler and double glazing.

Contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk website.





Italian style that appeals to the heart and head

By John Griffiths

Even Fiat must have been surprised by the success of its retro-styled 500 nearly a decade ago.

Cute, stylish and economical, the city car was a faithful but modern interpretation of the cheap and cheerful little model which was a mainstay of the Italian motor industry in the 50s, 60s and 70s, much as the Mini was here.

It was, however, significantly bigger: but perhaps not big enough to satisfy all would-be buyers, especially those with growing families. And so a larger, compact MPV (the 500L) was born and more recently its crossover, or compact SUV sibling the 500X.

Both are instantly recognisable members of the family, with the 500 'face' but the X is arguably the prettier, more stylish version, and was targeted at the fastest growing sector of the new car market.

Buyers seem to just love SUVs: there are lots of reasons from the high 'command' driving position, ease of access and image (even though the majority sold don't have a traditional SUV's all wheel drive system).

The 500X rivals many family-sized hatchbacks, with room for five adults, with plenty of headroom, and a decent 351 litres of boot space with easily foldable rear seats for a much larger, flat cargo area when the need arises. But is also has lots of style: it isn't only the car's face which reminds you of its little city car sibling. It's interior is perhaps rather more mature (as befits that 'growing family' buyer, but with features such as retro-look door handles, a body-coloured decor strip (bright alloy on top models) and a neatly integrated infotainment screen with a wide range of functions.

The test car came in 'Lounge' trim, a front wheel drive version powered by a second generation multijet 1.6 litre turbo diesel which, at £20,935, is just about halfway up the 500X range.

The flagship model is the 'Cross' spec with all wheel drive, automatic transmission and a 2.0 litre diesel engine at a touch under £26,000.

The 1.6 turbo diesel, combined with a six-speed manual gearbox, isn't available with all wheel drive but it's still likely to be one of the most popular engine choices for both business and private buyers. The reason is it's blend of performance (0 to 62mph in 10.5 seconds), economy (60mpg) and low CO2 emissions (109g/km) which translates into low road tax and benefit in kind costs.

It has plenty of torque from low revs for brisk, smooth progress and is quite, too – there's no audible clue to the fact it's an oil-burner under the bonnet.

Responses

You can adjust the driving mode with a rotary switch between the seats (standard, sport and winter), which acts on steering and throttle response. Sport mode does make the car feel instantly more lively, more of a 'driver's car' but it's perfectly adequate in standard mode for most purposes.

Winter mode speaks for it out, softening up responses for tackling slippery conditions and naturally on a modern car you have a full range of electronic wizardry including traction and stability systems.

While the 500X is taller than most hatchback rivals, the suspension is a good combination – supple enough to soak up the bumps yet firm enough to ensure accurate turn-in through the twisty bits without any appreciable body roll. It's a comfortable, grown up experience.

Many buyers will be happy with the front wheel drive version, as with many of the 500X's compact SUV rivals. The Fiat's automatic system is a competent affair, and comes on models with the range's two most powerful engines, the 140bhp petrol and the 170bhp (two litre) diesel.

The 'Lounge' test car came with front, side and curtain airbags, disc brakes all round, 18-inch alloys, tinted windows, rear parking sensors, electric wing mirrors remote controls on the steering wheel and a cruise control with speed limiter.

Atop the centre of the dash is the touch screen which monitors and controls a range of functions, including various car system settings and a comprehensive trip computer as well as the audio, Bluetooth and connectivity systems.

The test car was fitted with the optional £550 'Nav Pack', which includes a slightly larger (6.5 inch) screen. Press fleet vehicles tend to be kitted out to showcase what's available to buyers, so other extras included leather seats (£900), a sunroof (£950), heated front seats (£175), and the 'winter pack' (heated steering wheel and windscreen) at £150.

The 500X faces some tough competition as more and more manufacturers chase sales in the compact SUV sector. But it has space, a range of engines which allow you to choose economy or performance (and a fair balance of both in the 1.6 diesel), there are two and four wheel drive options and it's competitively priced.

And, for many, there's no substitute for that Italian styling: it's pretty and practical, a car which appeals to both the heart and the head.

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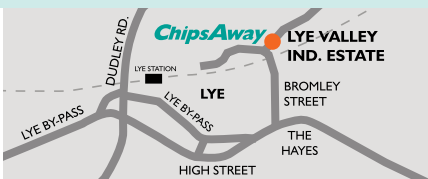
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DRIVETIME



Nissan is celebrating 20 years of the 'curry hook'

Nissan's advanced driver assistance systems are available on many of its models, including the award-winning Qashqai crossover.

Development of these hi-tech solutions is constantly evolving to improve the ownership experience, but Nissan engineers never forget that a simple approach can be just as effective. This month marks 20 years since the debut of one of its most iconic features – the much-loved 'curry hook'.

The dashboard hook first appeared on the Almera compact family hatchback in March 1996, as a way of keeping hand bags or shopping bags upright. It was quickly dubbed the 'curry hook' by media who recognised it was the perfect way to stop takeaway food from spilling into the car's foot well.

Today, it remains a feature of the brand's crossovers such as the Qash-

qai and X-Trail. All that's changed is the location of the hook; it has moved from the dashboard to the boot.

It's just one of many simple solutions which Nissan has incorporated into its cars to make life easier for the driver. Another is the 'Karakuri' boot board – also known as the Flexi-Board – which is available on the Qashqai, Juke and Note. It allows owners to divide the cargo space according to their needs, and can be arranged in various configurations to support and protect items in transit. When not in use, it cleverly stores out of the way in the boot floor.

Nissan's engineers have put just as much thought into the latest Navara pick-up. For example, it features a 12-volt power socket in the dashboard's upper storage tray – ideal for customers who have their own portable sat-nav device to stick to the windscreen. It means no potentially hazardous trail

of wires across the fascia, keeping the driving environment tidy and unobstructed. Cleverly, for customers who choose a Navara with an integrated sat-nav, the socket isn't there.

Such smart thinking isn't a new element of the Nissan 'customer-first' philosophy. In September 1986, when the first Nissan Bluebird rolled off the new production line in Sunderland, UK, it had two analogue trip meters built into the instrument cluster behind the steering wheel.

Why? So business users could easily separate and log their professional and private mileage. A unique feature at the time, it is now standard on the digital read-outs of almost every volume car brand.

Many innovations such as these began life in the minds of the engineering experts at Nissan's European Technical Centre in Cranfield, UK.

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CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

Stourbridge Removals

20+ YEARS EXP
Home, Office,
Part loads, landlord
clean & repair service.
House clearances.
Quality service guaranteed
lowest rates
Call John - 07802 876 876
office - 01562 640 640

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!
No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years. 01384 232359.

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

4
Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

RG T Wolverhampton
@RGTwolves

JEFFRY'S DOG WALKING/sitting service. Wotton. Fully insured. Reg Senior Citizen rates. 07974 913703

POMERANIAN X CHIHUAHUA
Pups, 10 weeks, wormed and flea'd. £350. 01902 256236.

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE
COULD BE
PROMOTING
YOUR
BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5
Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6
Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

LOVELY VICTORIAN 1 bed flat, Brierley Hill. Suit employed person. (Sorry no children, smoking). £385pcm. 07860 830361

PARKFIELDS WV three bed unfurnished house, £520 pcm plus Dep and Refs. 01743 357305.

THREE BED HOUSE Merry Hill Wolverhampton. GCH, DG, 2 gardens. £575pcm. 07800 914919.

mobile homes

PARK HOME FOR SALE. Two double bedrooms, en-suite and bathroom on Oxley Court Park. 07790 411329

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

EVERY TIME!

WE PAY 100% of purchase price



We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

WE ALSO BUY LAND

30 yrs

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or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

PROPERTIES WANTED

- Any area
- Any circumstances
- Any condition

Direct Sale / No Chains / No Stress

Fast CASH completion

Call Jack on 07507 865668

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

8

Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI A3 1.9TDI, 2003, blue, good condition, any trial, £1,375. Telephone 07714 019381.

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.

Packages start from as little as

£21.00 for 6 nights

Plus

6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL

01902 317878

7

Jobs

employment wanted

EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER Requires all types of work. Private and commercial and repointing work undertaken. 07534 767256.

full time - general

Furniture Sales

Manager (Retail)

Merry Hill, Dudley, West Midlands



We're still very much a genuine family owned & run business, something which is becoming more & more unique in this day & age. You'll be far more than just a name and number at William & Sons. We pride ourselves on offering our staff competitive salary packages in a pleasant, relaxed working environment.

YOUR KEY RESPONSIBILITIES / SKILLS WILL INCLUDE:

- Achieve / exceed individual / store sales targets, using KPI's (Key Performance Indicators)
- Excellent selling & negotiating skills
- Proven ability to effectively motivate, lead, mentor & manage a sales team
- Highlight & manage internal / external product & sales training
- Experience of furniture retail sector would be an advantage but is not essential

Salary: £30K+ per year OTE (basic, commission & bonuses)

Working Hours: 35.75 hours per week, inc Bank Holidays and Weekends

No late night working required

Email a covering letter & current CV to Barbara Harris (Office Manager)

barbara.harris@williamandsons.co.uk

POWER PRESS TOOL SETTER

Fully qualified experienced Power Press Tool Setter required to operate presses up to 120 tonnes,

must be fully conversant with roll feed and air feed applications and hold a current ROSPA certificate.

39 hours a week/ 33 days holiday per year

Performance bonus on top of basic pay rate.

Please send your C.V. for attention of

Sally Stupmanis

Dudley Tool Presswork & Eng Ltd,

Mill Street, Wordsley, DY8 5SX

Or email to Sally.Horton@dudley-tool.co.uk

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 2005, black, 67,000 miles, MoT'd, excellent condition, £1,500 ono.

07428 493924.

CITROEN BERLINGO 1.9 Diesel, 52 reg, white, MoT July, side door, daily use. £495 ono. 0796 1669911.

CITROEN C3 136cc, petrol, 2003, good condition inside and out, 1 owner, 52,000 miles, 11 months MoT, £950. 07578 75592.

CITROEN C3, 2005, very good condition, MoT until 2017, 55,530 miles, £875. Contact: Alois for viewing 07585 712077.

CITROEN PICASSO, 52 plate, 02 reg, MoT'd till March 2017. Good condition. £750. o.n.o. 01902 885796.

CITROEN SAXO 1.1 Desire, 2001, MoT Feb 2017, excellent condition, £350. 07964 320946.

MITSUBISHI PININ 4X4 2.0 Elegance, 2001, very good condition, MoT history, £750 ono or (exchange) for mini project. 01562 632756.

PEUGEOT 206 Convertible, 03, FSH, MoT, leather interior, blue, superb condition, £875. 01384 440258. 07935 337167.

RENAULT CLIO Expression, 1.1, 5-dr, 53 reg, only 48k, service history, MoT history, £750 ono. 01902 440258. 07935 337167.

RENAULT MODUS 1.4 petrol, 55 plate, fish, ew, full MoT, £3,000 on clock, fantastic condition, £1,295 ono. 01902 470560.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.6, 2007, Red, 54,000 miles, 11 months MoT, very good condition, half leather seats. £1,500 ono. 07828 267541.

RENAULT SCENIC Grand, red, 05 reg, 59,120 miles, new clutch fitted, good condition, £1,200. 07748 070012.

ROVER 75 1.8, 51 reg, MoT, 85,000 miles, A1 condition, £700. Telephone 01902 782601.

ROVER 25 SALOON 1.8, (52) Blue, 86k miles, 6 months MoT. Very good condition, £675 ono. May part ex. 01902 530123 / 07747 740371.

SKODA FABIA 02, 1.4, 67,000 miles, yellow, MoT till Feb 2017, recent service history, £275 ono. 07401 643571.

SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6 2003, 117,000 miles, grey, abs, air bag, MoT to Sept 2016, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo. Recent timing belt and water pump. £525 ono. 07789 172467.

TOYOTA AVENTIS T3-X 2005, 194k miles, olive green, FSH, MoT, diesel, alloys, CD, cambelt at 164k, very good condition £895 ono 07405 196046.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, 56 plate, 67k, 12 months MoT, excellent condition, £1,395. o.n.o. 07939 463221.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 Design, 04, 3-dr, private plate, silver, history, MoT, good condition, £695. 07599 220780.

VAUXHALL VECTRA LS, 1796cc, 5dr, hatchback, 2003, silver, 62,000 miles, petrol, history, 2 owners, £850. 07901 617734.

VW GOLF Estate 1.9 SDI, 2002, MoT Feb 2017, good condition, drives excellent, high mileage, £850. 01902 847906.

classic cars

MGB GT, 1968

Yellow, 38,000 genuine miles, part restoration by last owners. Valued at £7,000. Sell for £6,750 ono. For more information call 07801 062339.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any sale. Any condition. 01630 652393 or 07773 462797. Telephone 07839 483221.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT CONNECT, 07 reg, 1 owner from new, fish, low mileage, red, £1,695 ono. Telephone 07839 483221.

VAUXHALL MOVANO Van, 2000, owned for 10 years, MoT, very clean, loads of new parts fitted, £1,450 ono. 07787 995532.

WANTED Medium sized pick up or large van. 07754 121452.

driving tuition

10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADDITIONAL REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 466100 / 01562 070050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 590065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

YAMAHA XJR 600 Diversion, 1998, MoT, Pannier boxes and top rack. £750. 01384 830877.

scrap vehicles

A BETTER PRICE for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale. NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD, WV1 2TZ

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid, HP settled. Buyer could call.

01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

REGISTRATION PLATE Number UHT 800. For sale, £450. Assignment fee already paid included in price. 01902 831158.

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob

01384 251328 or

07972 169554 anytime

For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clio's & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

9
Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10
Personals

personal

ATTENTION LADIES 40-58. Please don't pass this advert by, read on and see I'm a genuine guy.

52, slim, attractive, GSOH, romantic too, hoping for reply from a lady like you.

Box Number P20298 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN 5FT 5

74 years, wishes to meet lady

50-75 for friendship, possible

relationship. Photo appreciated.

(Returned)

Box Number P20297 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENTLEMAN

Sincere, well mannered, educated, loyal, polite, romantic, understanding, I drive, would like to meet single mother, 30-55, for holidays here and aboard and for long term relationship only, solvent, 8 mile radius of Wolverhampton.

Genuine replies only.

Box Number C20302,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SEEKING FRIENDS

S. Saunders, D. Woodfield,

Youngster, P. Hinks.

Remember Fuhrer

1960's Bilston College of

Further Education.

Box Number C20299 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

DUDLEY SPORTS 6-A-SIDE

SUMMER TOURNAMENT

Saturday May 21, 2016 &

Sunday, May 22, 2016.

Saturday morning session,

U9s, U12s, U13s.

Afternoon session

U10s, U11s, U15s

Sunday 22, morning session

U7s, U8s and U14s, U16s

Afternoon session,

U11's/12 girls, U13/14 girls,

U15/16 girls.

Download application form

www.dudleysports1fc.co.uk

or ring Fred 07788 684258.

KEWFORD EAGLES NORTH

Require experienced players as

they move to a 7 a side, playing

in the SDYFL - school year 4

from September.

Contact Matt 07969 543834.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today?

We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

CREMATED REMAINS GRAVE

Bushbury Cemetery, old section, plot for 4 sets of ashes. £600.

Contact 07730 598821

Final whistle



THE ONLY READ
FOR REAL FANS
EVERY MONDAY

If you want the definitive read on the weekend football action there is only one place to go – Final whistle supplement in the Express & Star.

Packed with match reports, infographics and player reaction, Final whistle offers the best football coverage around. With expert analysis from star pundits like Kevin Phillips, as well as graphics of the key moments, tables and stats, make sure you get your copy.

A real football read for real football fans.

TO ADVERTISE IN FINAL WHISTLE CALL OUR

EXPERIENCED SALES TEAM ON 01902 31 31 31

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

cars under £1500

BMW 325Ti SPORT 52 plate, MoT April, sold as seen. Offers around £700. 07814 459851.

CHEVROLET LACETTI SX, silver, 07, 46.6k, hatchback, 7 months MoT, recently serviced. £800 ono. 07854 93883 or 01902 326686

Express & Star DATING

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To **Place** your advert call: **0844 381 5936** and follow the simple instructions

To **Place** your ad by text Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098 FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

YOU can now **Date ONLINE** or via your mobile just visit:
http://dating.expressandstar.com

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet **you.. visit..** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

ATTRACTIVE, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. **Text only Mailbox: 541973**

ABIGAIL, 33yrs slim sophisticated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasures with a discreet experienced man, married or single. **ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 421338**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. **ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

MANDY, 45, friendly outgoing arty female who loves winning/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421503**

ROSIE, genuine well educated, sophisticated lady 29yrs WLTm fun loving chap, any age for chats, lunch, discreet meetings. **Box: 4124710 Text only**

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar thirty guy for enjoy TLC and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451**

JAYNE, bored housewife, 42yrs looking for someone to spice up her days with some fun and jokes. **Box: 4155728 Text only**

JESSICA 39, attractive fit/healthy blonde female enjoys travel, music, the Arts, gym, the good things in life, seeking love, laughter, LTR with similar male, 40-55yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421563**

Hi I am Lorna 39yr old slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421413**

JAYNE, 42, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421311**

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTm up for it male to enjoy nights/inout, weekends away, fun times and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421259**

REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent. **ACA. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box: 419673**

CARING honest female, WLTm genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters **ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

SUE, 39, slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTm willing male to get to know and spend quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421617**

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237**

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421567**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all chats answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455**

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fling with chap any age, must be discreet. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 407933**

Customer support

Call **0207 720 2130** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm

or email us at **support@jmediauk.co.uk**

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region**



Dates in **YOUR** region

Been left a message? **Pickup** your replies on:

0906 500 3957

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

To **Reply** to members call:

0906 500 3955

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do **key-it-in promptly** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To **Reply** by text:

Text... REPLY26 (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26 123456 hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

It's cheaper not to refresh your love life online!
Unlimited use for just £9.95 per month
VISIT: **http://dating.expressandstar.com**



TREVOR 45, likes cinema, going out, some quiet nights in and looking for someone with similar interests. **Text only to mailbox: 5392042**

COLIN 48, loving, kind, seeks loving kind caring cuddly lady 48 to 54 for LTR, love and romance. **Text only to mailbox: 5308886**

MALE 51, seeks lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313191**

MALE 55, stocky, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407741**

MALE 57, seeking female, any age/looks for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416779**

TOBY, looking for a responsible lady, 30-50, sensible with money, loving, passionate, romantic, single mum of one welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420813**

MALE, 59, 5f12, average build, seeks genuine, caring, lady, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421089**

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420827**

HANDSOME, attractive, fit, Indian, professional trucker, 38, WLTm attractive, honest, caring lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 219790**

MARK, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTm a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841**

MALE, 63, caring, easygoing, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893**

STEVEN, 39, caring and clean, looking for female for fun, laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420861**

MALE, 46, slim, WLTm a lady to settle me down, if that's you please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420853**

62yr old professional male seeks female 55-70, curvy and feminine, for fun, laughter and relationship. **Text only to mailbox: 4435871**

Gay Singles

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

I am looking for discreet fun with a male, age doesn't matter, get in touch if you are interested. **Text only to mailbox: 4172337**

CAROL, bi curious lady, blonde, 5f12, short hair, blue eyes, size 14, WLTm a similar lady between to 50-60 years old. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421281**

CHRIS genuine gay male, 55, smoker, likes days out, cosy nights in, seeks local, feminine gay female, 40-50's for special relationship. Nottinghamshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 373151**

BI-CURIOSUS 45 years old, slim and good looking, looking for younger bi-curious guy for discreet fun. **Text only to Mailbox: 4917435**

57YR old male, slim, fit, seeks guy, 30-45 for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309951**

BLACK male seeking black male aged 25 to 30, for discreet adult fun, maybe more. **Text only to Mailbox: 5409036**

SLIM late 50's male, seeks gay/bi/CD, slim-medium build, 25-42 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 336329**

Just Friends

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215**

LUKE 60's, seeking young Asian friend, 20-30's to socialise with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414841**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, WLTm tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421135**

ANGELA, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely gentleman for good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115**

MARGARET 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTm child friendly male, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129**

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTm nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421241**

46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ **Text only to Mailbox: 5404865**

TRISH, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC. WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship. 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137**

TIRED OF SEARCHING? LET US HELP YOU FIND YOUR PERFECT MATCH
JOIN OUR NEW MATCHMAKER SERVICE NOW!
SINGLES IN YOUR AREA ARE LOOKING FOR FUN, ROMANCE AND MAYBE MORE!
JOIN THEM NOW!
IT'S AS SIMPLE AS SENDING A TEXT!
TEXT MATCH TO 89990

All messages received cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received. This service is not available in some areas. Please check the website for more details. If you are interested in this service, please contact us on 0207 720 2130 or email support@jmediauk.co.uk

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791**

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for professional male to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729**

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357**

LILY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. **Text only mailbox no: 5372466**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTm child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701**

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curvy, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

EMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. **Text only to mailbox: 5392585**

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384**

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269**

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839**

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003**

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117**

BLUE eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416899**

SALLY, 46, slim attractive pretty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420475**

LOUISE, 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445**

ALEXA 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography and more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662**

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359**

ANN, 38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTm similar kind male for a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTm date age, looking for male to take me out. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207**

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTm male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. **Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175**

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTm very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701**

EMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet tasteful, looking for fun times with older male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. **Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTm kind, sincere chap/le to share coffee and a chat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043**

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003**

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KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTm male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195**

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851**

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man, who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839**

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male, any age/race. **Text only Mailbox: 4673363**

MALE, 59, 5f12, average build, looking for a genuine, caring lady, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421089**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

CARING



In 2013 when they were fundraising for the new pavilion – Stephen Taft, Tony Banks and Daniel Kinsey



Outside the new pavilion, members of Springhill Cricket Club ready for the new season

Cricketers ready to spring into action

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Edwards

“At some point in the summer, we will be hosting our grand opening for the building, which we see effectively as the relaunch of the club.”

Recently the club held their pre-season social event with a celebratory barbecue, for those who have helped out at the ground. “Gavin Williamson has been a massive supporter of our club. He has really helped along the way.”

They have a new mobile cage to replace the old static nets which took a battering over the winter.

Promotion

Springhill's first XI remain in the Staffs Clubs Division Two this season. The seconds finished third in Division Four last term, behind winners Pelsall and Burntwood St Matthew's.

The third XI were 13th in Division Five, but they did enter the league as a new team.

Kinsey is particularly hoping the second XI gain promotion this term and added: “This year is a bit of a consolidating year for us. Our main aim, though, is for our second team to go up a division.

“Our first team are a strong side so we expect them to possibly challenge at the top again in the second division.

“We want our second team, who are in the fourth division, to really push for promotion.

“The thirds are still a new side, last season was their first as a team, so hopefully they can hold their own too.”



Preparing for the new season, secretary Dan Kinsey with vice chairman Kevin Jones

SPRINGHILL Cricket Club are in high spirits as the new season gets under way. The club, in Lower Penn, held its first AGM in its new pavilion recently and now all three of their teams are geared up for the new campaign in the Staffordshire Cricket Club Championship.

Springhill CC was set up in 1949 and they have been based at their present site since 1950. They had been without a clubhouse for more than a decade, though, as their old wooden pavilion was demolished in 2005 after an arson attack.

Three years ago, the club was awarded £50,000 of National Lottery funding to develop its new clubhouse and back in September, they secured a £50,000 grant from Biffa Award to complete the second phase of the development.

Backing

Sport England were among others to provide financial backing and the building, which cost an approximate total of £180,000, is now in place, with just a few finishing touches to put to it.

Club secretary Dan Kinsey is relieved to now have a ‘solid’ facility and said: “It is a brand new clubhouse, a facility that wasn’t there at all previously. Our old wooden pavilion was burnt down 11 years ago, gutted in an arson attack, and it almost put the club to an end.

“The facility is solid, it is brand new. There are two changing rooms, which will have shower facilities. There are new toilet facilities, a big community room with a kitchen, and there will be a bar area too. We are putting the finishing touches to it now and, at some point in the summer, we will be hosting our grand opening for the building, which we see effectively as the relaunch of the club.”

The club is being supported by South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson and NatWest Bank as they prepare the playing surface and construct new training nets for the forthcoming season. Volunteers from NatWest were due to help club members to fit the new mobile nets.

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Ex-England chief sees Stour victory

WITH ex-England head coach Stuart Lancaster in the crowd, Stourbridge produced one of their best performances of the season to secure a hard-fought bonus point win at Otley, 19-27.

The hosts struck first with a try in the corner but Chris Scott reduced the deficit with a penalty when Otley were penalised by referee Claire Hodgnett for not releasing in the tackle.

Up to then Stour had spent most of their time defending but the tide turned with a superb daylight-robbery interception by winger Josh Trinhnam who hared down 60 metres to score under the posts for a half time lead.

Stour stormed into the second half when after two minutes centre Joe Heatley broke and was in position to receive the scoring pass a couple of phases later. The first-phase line out ball was moved left where winger Ash Elvers came across to take an inside pass and blast through a gap and score.

Stour laid siege to the Otley line with a series of scrums. Centre James Otutaha bagged the bonus-point try after a tap and run by scrum half Toby Handley. Otley hit back with a couple of well-taken late tries.

With the Dudley Kingswinford first XV home match at Silhillians postponed, **DK Development XV** took centre stage and their biggest crowd of the season saw them secured the Midlands Reserve Division 2 title by the impressive margin of 48-8 over Sutton Coldfield.

Old Halesonians came back from a disappointing couple of weeks to record a 13-22 victory at Newport, despite ongoing injury absences.

After falling 8-0 behind and missing a penalty, Old Hales started the fightback with tries from Owen Jones and Tom Jordan.

Old Hales had the benefit of a half time chat by player-coach Ben Hughes, who led from the front with some quality line out ball. Centre Steve Leach got a deserved try, converted by Oli Rayner. Another line out won by Hughes saw skipper Rich Taylor cross for the bonus point try.

Hoops up north for fast times in Manc marathon

WITH the options of marathons in Rome, Paris or Barcelona, the blue hoops of Dudley Kingswinford Running Club chose something a little closer to home with the Greater Manchester Marathon.

Advertised as the flattest in the country, so promising fast times, the 26.2 mile course took the runners from Salford Quays to Altrincham and back to finish near Lancashire's Country Cricket ground at Old Trafford.

Simon Blizzard made an impressive debut finishing in 3.02.07 to take 452nd place, Simon Hughes was not far behind, claiming a personal best by more than 20 minutes, clocking in at 3.05.28 in 553rd place.

Tracy Alderson laid the ghost of a London Marathon failure to finish by recording 3.31.38 and finishing 16th lady. Lisa Kendrick debuted with a 4.26.11.

Top fight billing for home turf duo

DUDLEY'S top prospects Ryan Aston and Tommy Ghent will share top billing for the first time in over four years – and on home turf.

The two are the headline acts for promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson's 'Resurgence' show at Dudley Town Hall on May 21.

Southpaw Aston, 25, known as 'The Tank', will feature over six rounds, looking to rebuild after defeat to Ahmet Patterson for the IBF International light middleweight title in January.

Ghent, of Colesey, returns in the chief support bout of six four-rounders, after nearly three years out with his first paid fight in the town. 'Glad-iator' Ghent, 23, and Aston were both talented

Boxing

amateurs out of Priory Park Boxing Club, where popular Netherton middleweight Les 'Minefield' Byfield and supper middle Josh 'The Jackal' Miller – both also on the Town Hall card – train.

Rugged Rowley Regis middleweight Tyler Denny, from Shaun Cooper's gym in Brierley Hill, is also on the bill, alongside flamboyant flyweight Matt Windle, from Warley.

Tickets are £40, £50 or £70. Call the promoter on 07976 283 157.

A week earlier, Ricky Hatton's prospects will

take centre stage when professional boxing returns to Walsall FC's Stadium Suite.

The former two-weight world champion has teamed up with Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing to put on the May-hem show, co-headlined by Sam Evans of Wednesbury and heavyweight Nathan Gorman.

Ex-British lightweight champ Martin Gethin and ex-English title challenger Steven Pearce, from Stourbridge, both appear on the under-card. Kieron McLaren and Chad former world kickboxing champion Chad Sugden complete the line-up.

Standard passes are £30 with VIPs, at £60. Call 01922 651414, extension 416.

MAX IS READY FOR BIG YEAR

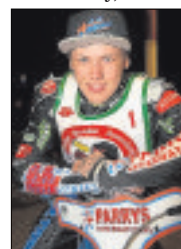
CRADLEY skipper Max Clegg says this is the biggest year of his career.

Yorkshire lad Clegg, who turned 19 on Monday, is a firm favourite with

Heathens supporters and is in his fourth season with the speedway club.

He's one of the busiest riders in the sport as he also rides for Premier League Edinburgh and Elite League Wolverhampton.

"This is definitely the biggest year of my career so far and I'd love to have a major trophy to remember it by," he said. "The National League is going to help keep my confidence going with Cradley. This is my fourth season with them and they've helped me get to where I am today."



Skipper Max Clegg

Confident

"I've made a decent start in my second season with Edinburgh – I love it up there and everyone made me feel so welcome. I did much better than I expected in the Premier League and now I want to prove myself as a solid middle-order rider."

"I feel a lot more confident at Elite League level this year too. When I did Elite League with Leicester in 2014, it was just too soon for me."

"I've got a lot more experience behind me this year and Wolverhampton is a club that really suits me. Riding at Monmore Green every week, track sharing with Cradley, is going to bring me on further."

Clegg leads the Heathens into action at Perry Barr on Wednesday when they face title favourites Birmingham. Heathens are next at Monmore when they face King's Lynn on April 25 – a meeting which will see the return of former favourite Nathan Greaves who won the league twice in three seasons with the club.

Heathens put back the National League clash with Rye House by 24 hours due to rain and were to race on Tuesday (April 12) at Monmore.

Reanne pots 11th world title



Dudley's Reanne Evans with the world championship trophy

BLACK Country snooker ace Reanne Evans says the Ladies World Championship trophy is back where it belongs after her record-breaking 11th title.

Evans, from Dudley, beat 2015 champion Ng On Yee 6-4 in a back and forth final at the Northern Snooker Centre in Leeds.

She had 10 consecutive triumphs in the competition, from 2005 until 2014, before losing to the Hong Kong star in last year's semi-finals.

Evans said: "I'm over the moon, I'm glad to bring the title back. Now the trophy is back in England where it belongs."

Evans took the opening frame but On Yee led 3-2 at the interval.

At one point, it looked as if there could be a decider for the first time in the final of the competition since 1989, but Evans held her nerve and won three frames in a row to claim the crown.

"There was more pressure for On Yee this year, and I know how tough it is being the defending champion," Evans added.

"I struggled a little bit, I played a bit more of a fighting game, but I enjoyed it and obviously I'm glad I have come back with the trophy now."

"When it went four each, I thought, if I get in front, I don't fancy losing."

Glassboys gained the upper hand

STOURBRIDGE gained the upper hand over their play-off-chasing rivals as they eased to a 3-1 victory at Mickleover Sports.

A third successive league victory looked assured for Gary Hackett's side once they had raced into a 3-0 lead during eight dramatic first-half minutes.

And while Stour were busy dismantling their Derbyshire hosts, their nearest rivals Workington and Ashton United both dropped points to allow the Glassboys to climb to fourth in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier.

Stour assistant manager Mark Clifton admitted it had been a good day. "Results have gone our way but there will be plenty more twists and turns so we have to hold our nerve," Clifton said.

Justin Richards settled Stourbridge nerves by firing a deflected shot past Mickleover keeper Ross Durrant on 22 minutes. The forward then latched on to Karl Hawley's flick-on to drill a second past Durrant just over a minute later.

Worse was to follow for the shell-shocked hosts on the half-hour mark. Dan Scarr's header was blocked by Durrant but Kristian Green tucked away the rebound.

Stour struggled to regain their momentum after the break and Sports scored on 60 minutes through Zeph Thomas.

First-half goals from Luke Male and Kaiman Anderson helped **Halesowen Town** complete a double against rock-bottom Ramsbottom. The 2-0 win on the road also kept the Yeltz on track to beat last season's points tally.

Male notched his first goal of the season after just 12 minutes of this Evo-Stik Northern Premier clash by converting the rebound after Kaiman Anderson's shot was saved by Grant Shenton. Anderson made it two before half time.

Veteran athlete Nancy masters track in Italy

DUDLEY and Stourbridge Athletics Club masters athlete Nancy Hitchmough has returned from a successful trip to the European Indoor Masters Championships in Italy, where she won three silver medals in the W65 age group.

In the 800m she ran 2 min 52.78 secs just losing out on the gold medal by 0.04 of a second.

Three days later in the 1500 Hitchmough found herself forced to lead the race only to be pipped over the last 100m in 5 min 52.8.

As part of the W65 GB 4 x 200 relay team, she returned to the track to gain another silver as the team finished second to a very good German team.

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